

2005

**LARGE PELAGICS
INTERCEPT SURVEY**

PROCEDURES MANUAL

**Contact the Marine Sciences Group
of QuanTech, Inc. at:
1-800-229-5220 (Toll Free)**

**Fax all assignment paperwork within 24 hours of assignment
completion to 1-877-694-8808**

Table of Contents

Overview of the Large Pelagics Survey.....	2
Overview of Procedures.....	3
General Instructions.....	3
Field Supervisor Phone Numbers.....	4
On-Site Procedures.....	8
General Coding.....	9
The ID Listing.....	13
Intercept Survey Form.....	14
Site Description Form.....	25
Assignment Summary Form.....	29
Time and Expense Report.....	31
Administrative Issues.....	33
Personnel Roles.....	34

Appendix A: Coding Examples

Appendix B: Blank Forms

Appendix C: Fishing Area List

Appendix D: Measuring Fish Lengths

Appendix E: State Code List

Appendix F: NMFS Permit Information

Overview of the Large Pelagics Survey

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for monitoring and managing U.S. marine fisheries resources. Highly Migratory Species (HMS) such as tunas, billfish, swordfish, sharks, dolphin (mahi mahi), wahoo, greater amberjack, and other large pelagics, which are caught in offshore oceanic waters are of particular interest to NMFS as these species support economically important recreational and commercial fisheries. NMFS monitors these HMS catch rates and effort closely, and adjusts these species' management measures as needed to maintain stocks and the fisheries that depend on them.

One method used to collect information on catch rates and effort is the Large Pelagics Survey (LPS). The LPS collects catch information from boat captains upon their return from offshore fishing trips. Effort information (trips per week) is collected in a separate telephone survey. This information is vital to NMFS' efforts to manage HMS. Therefore, boat captains returning from offshore fishing trips may be required to provide catch information to NMFS as part of the LPS. Participation by qualified vessel operators is required and responses are classified as confidential records in accordance with NOAA Administrative order 216-100.

In order to collect this information, NMFS has contracted with QuanTech to conduct interviews with captains of boats returning from fishing offshore for large pelagic species. Staff from QuanTech will interview boat captains or the captain's designee (i.e., mate) who have just returned from an offshore oceanic fishing trip which targeted or caught large pelagic species such as tunas, billfish, sharks, and other similar species. The captains (or designee) will be asked a series of questions about their catch and bycatch for the trip just completed, and their catch will be counted. Some interviewers may measure fish lengths or take tissue samples (e.g., hearts, otoliths, vertebrae). The data which is collected is protected by NOAA Administrative Order 216-100.

The authority to require recreational and commercial fishermen to provide this catch information comes from the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ACTA). The collection of catch information fulfills the U.S. obligations to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and provides the basis for stock assessments and management of the valuable species in the U.S. territorial waters.

QuanTech may also conduct other survey components including the Large Pelagics Biological Survey (LPBS) and the Large Pelagics Observer Survey (LPOS). On LPBS assignments, biological sampling is conducted to obtain tissue samples as well as additional length and weight information for bluefin tuna and other large pelagic species. For the LPOS, interviewers join half-day, full-day, or multi-day trips on-board party/head boats targeting large pelagic species to collect information concerning the vessel's fishing effort and catch.

OVERVIEW OF PROCEDURES

- Interviewers are responsible for determining the best time of the day to conduct their assignment.
- Assignments must be at least two hours long but may be up to eight hours long.
- Assignments may be rescheduled due to high seas, gale warnings, or hurricanes.
- Interviewers may move within a pre-defined cluster of sites to obtain interviews.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

The questions to be asked during the Large Pelagic Intercept Survey interview are written out in full for a purpose. Methodological studies have shown that even slight changes in wording -- for example, should versus could, drastically influence item response. The interviewer should always read each item on the questionnaire exactly as it is stated (unless it is an item that is contained on the ID listing, in which case the interviewer need only verify the information). Verifiable information includes the vessel name, NMFS HMS Permit number, Coast Guard Documentation number, State Registration number, and Captain/Owner/Designated Mate's name and phone number.

If the respondent asks for the interviewer's opinion about an item, the interviewer should provide a definition for the item in question, rather than supply the actual response.

Pre-Assignment Procedures:

Each interviewer should make sure that he/she knows his/her interviewing schedule. QuanTech Field Supervisors will schedule interviewers for assignments on a monthly basis during 2005. Assignments will be drawn for a cluster. Some clusters include only one site, other clusters may have multiple sites. The cluster list may change on a monthly basis. Stay informed about the clusters in your area.

Before accepting each assignment, each interviewer should know the location of the assigned interviewing cluster. Adequate directions to get to the assigned location(s) shall be given to interviewers by their Field Supervisor. If there is any confusion about where to interview, the interviewer should contact his/her Field Supervisor.

When accepting assignments, interviewers should record the following information for each assignment:

- Date
- Control Number
- County Code
- Cluster ID
- Site Codes for all sites within the cluster
- Site Names for all sites within the cluster

Do not try to memorize your schedule of assignments.

Keep your list of accepted assignment information in a safe place.

Verify assignment information while reviewing your forms prior to transmittal.

Interviewers should contact their Field Supervisors to obtain their assignments. It is crucial that assignments get done on the date scheduled. The only reasons for not completing a scheduled assignment is if weather conditions do not allow for offshore game fishing and no boats are out that might be targeting or incidentally catch a large pelagic species. This type of cancelled assignment is referred to as "weathered-out".

QuanTech headquarters and Field Supervisors must be notified when an assignment is "weathered out" within 24 hours.

Assignments that are "weathered out" will be rescheduled for the same day the following week. However, rescheduling "weathered out" assignments will only be done in coordination with the Field Supervisor.

Interviewers should reschedule "weathered-out" assignments with the Field Supervisor and verify that another assignment has not already been scheduled for the same day and location(s). Once the Field Supervisor reschedules the "weathered-out" assignment with the interviewer, the Field Supervisor will notify QuanTech Headquarters.

In addition, QuanTech headquarters and Field Supervisors should be contacted immediately if an interviewer determines that he/she cannot do an assignment due to unforeseen circumstances or emergencies. If possible, another interviewer will be asked to complete the assignment on the date for which it was originally drawn.

Each interviewer should make certain that he/she has all of the required materials and equipment for conducting interviews, including:

- Name Tag;
- Procedures Manual;
- Fish Identification Field Guide;
- Metal Tape Measure;
- To Whom It May Concern Letter;
- Other Informational Materials, such as the Permit List; and
- Questionnaires/Coding Forms.

All interviewers must have the required materials listed above in their physical possession when on site. Never leave required materials in the car! Interviewers should dress casually but neatly. Shorts are acceptable, but bathing suits are not. T-shirts are acceptable. Closed-toed shoes should be worn while interviewing. Alcohol or illegal drug use or intoxication on assignment is strictly prohibited. Fishing while on-assignment is prohibited. Failure to abide by these rules will result in a loss of future assignments for that interviewer.

If interviewing is to be conducted on location(s) where there is an owner, manager, or supervisor, it is a requirement to "check-in" and speak with that person upon arrival at the site and explain the nature of the survey, its objectives, and how you will be performing your work. If the manager wants more information than is immediately available, he/she should contact the person listed on the "To Whom" letter at NMFS.

Sites where interviewers are impeded or prohibited from interviewing are referred to as "hostile".

Please notify QuanTech headquarters in writing if you are impeded from interviewing eligible respondents at a Large Pelagic Intercept Survey fishing access site. **The best place to record this information is in the comments section of your SITE Description Form.** The reason for the impediment must be given.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- The site owner or operator will not give permission to interview at (site name).
- The owner of (site name) will not allow interviewing at the fuel dock.

If an interviewer is impeded or prohibited at a site by the location owner, operator/manager, or site personnel (such as a fuel attendant), leave the site immediately. Avoid confrontation.

QuanTech headquarters and the Field Supervisor must be notified within 24 hours after leaving a "hostile" location, in keeping with the deadlines for reporting assignment status and faxing paperwork.

If asked to leave a site, it may be possible to visit other sites within an assigned cluster. As long as the assignment was for a cluster of sites, and not just one site, go to the other sites within the cluster and obtain interviews with eligible fishery participants.

If the assignment was for a single site, and you are asked to leave, you will receive your base pay and be reimbursed for your mileage. A letter or email to QuanTech explaining what happened will be required.

QuanTech will notify NMFS and record the site as hostile. The Field Supervisor will be asked to visit the site to speak with the location owner/operator and remedy the situation.

To reduce the number of "hostile" sites and refusals, the National Marine Fisheries Service will send a package of Large Pelagics Survey information to "hostile" site owners or fishery participants that you record on your Site Description Form(s).

Interviewers are responsible for determining the best hours to conduct their assignment. Interviewing times will vary slightly by geographical area and time of year. 3-7 pm are often the most productive hours for interviewing returning eligible vessels. In general, assignments should be conducted to maximize the number of interviews obtained. Interviewers will receive training on how to determine the best time to conduct their assignment. Field Supervisors will provide recommendations on when to conduct assignments.

Consider the following variables to determine when to conduct your assignment:

- Weather reports
 - Gale Storm Warning or Hurricane Nearby?
If yes, "weather out" the assignment and reschedule with the Field Supervisor.
 - Offshore weather is highly variable, get reports from the National Weather Service, your local news "Offshore Report", or the Weather Channel.
- Call the site(s)
 - Determine if a person that works at the site(s), such as the Dockmaster, will provide you with reliable information concerning the number of boats that went out and the time that they are expected back.
- Ask the Field Supervisor

- When accepting your assignments, obtain recommendations on when to go, and which site in a cluster to visit first.

It is important to be on-site by the appropriate time for each assignment. The appropriate time to arrive on site is before eligible vessels are returning from offshore trips. By assessing the potential to obtain interviews at each site within a cluster and going to those locations at the appropriate time to increase your productivity you will obtain more interviews. Consider the following scenario:

It is a good weather day, you expect that there will be some vessels fishing for large pelagics, and there are three sites in the assigned cluster...

1) Call the sites within the cluster in the morning to ask if any vessels went out. Find out how many vessels went out from each site and when the vessels are expected to return to the site.

In this situation, the site operators have proven to be reliable sources of information in the past. They inform you that at site #1 there are 4 eligible boats out, at site #2 there are 2 boats out, and at site #3 there are 5 boats out.

The vessels that departed that morning from site #1 are expected back between 4pm and 5pm, the vessels from site #2 are expected back at 5p.m., and those from site #3 are expected back between 5p.m. and 6p.m.

2) Consider the proximity of the sites within the cluster.

Site #1 and site #2 are next door to each other, separated by a dock. It is possible to observe the returning vessel activity at both locations from one vantage point. Site #3 is nearby, within a 5 minute drive, however, you cannot see the boats as they return unless you make the trip down the road.

3) Begin at the site where the vessels are expected back sooner.

You arrive at site #1 at 3:45p.m. and check-in at site #1 and site #2. The dockmaster at site #1 informs you that one of the vessels is already in and the captain and crew of that vessel already left the site, the two vessels expected to return to site #2 are not back yet. You decide to stick around and wait for the other three vessels at site #1. Also, you keep an eye on the neighboring site (site #2) because the vessels might return there around 5pm. You manage to obtain interviews from one of the three vessels returning to site #1, but around 4:45pm, while you were waiting for the remaining two vessels to return to site #1 you notice both of the vessels at the site next door (site #2) returning to the dock. After giving the vessels a chance to tie up, you obtain two interviews from respondents at the second site, but now you see one of the remaining two vessels returning to site #1. It is now 5:15pm.

4) Decide how to move within the cluster of sites to maximize the number of interviews that you obtain.

There is now one interview and the potential for another interview that you can obtain at site #1 while there is the potential to obtain 5 interviews at site #3. Now you are presented with a somewhat difficult decision...you could stay and get two more interviews from the late-returning vessels at site #1 and possibly miss a few of the respondents at site #3 or travel to site #3 in hopes that you might obtain interviews from all five vessels returning to site #3.

You decide to obtain the interview from the vessel that just returned to site #1, but rather than wait around for the last vessel to return to site # 1, you decide to go to site #3. At 5:35pm , after a short drive, you arrive at site #3. All five of the vessels have not yet returned to site #3. Rather than driving back to site #1 to wait for the remaining vessel, you stay at site #3 and obtain 5 more interviews.

On-Site Procedures

Interviewers should remain on-assignment to obtain as many intercepts as possible. However, assignments shall not exceed 8 hours in duration. To qualify as a completed assignment, the minimum amount of time (2 hours) must be spent within the cluster. You will not be paid for the assignment if you do not stay within the cluster for at least 2 hours.

NEVER depart from your assigned cluster to help another nearby interviewer assigned to another cluster who seems overwhelmed. This is necessary in case a boat does come in at the assigned cluster.

Interviewers will occasionally receive surprise quality control (QC) visits from their Field Supervisor, or possibly a NMFS official, so all interviewers must be on-site for this reason, as well.

Interviewers should position themselves so that they can observe as much activity as possible at the site(s). The goal is to intercept as many eligible respondents as possible. The best locations to be positioned will vary from site to site. Your Field Supervisor is a good person to talk to about this, as he/she will probably have visited the site as an interviewer in the past.

Positioning yourself at a cleaning station may cause you to miss other eligible respondents who did not catch fish and bias the catch estimates.

Canvass the entire site to maximize the number of eligible interviews that can be obtained.

At some sites it is possible and advisable to build rapport with the people present prior to conducting any interviews. Those who have had the opportunity to meet the interviewer and discuss the survey tend to be more cooperative when asked for an interview. A key factor in gaining the respondent's initial cooperation and confidence in the study lies in assuring him/her of the non-enforcement nature of the survey. When explicitly given the true purpose of the survey very early in the introduction, respondents tend to be much more willing to cooperate with the survey.

The canvassing process should be very informal and as unobtrusive as possible. The conversation might begin with "Good Afternoon" or "How's it going?". While canvassing, the interviewer should introduce themselves and be respectful. The interviewer should be polite at all times, regardless of any complaints that he or she may receive.

Respondents who are angry about NMFS policies may be encountered in the field. These persons should be encouraged to contact NMFS directly to air their complaints (using the address or phone number on the To Whom letter). If an interviewer is encountering significant resistance at a site, he/she must contact QuanTech and his/her Field Supervisor so that NMFS can be informed; **it is not appropriate as an interviewer to defend or attack NMFS and its policies.**

Under no circumstances should an interviewer identify him/herself as an employee of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Interviewers are independent contractors for QuanTech.

If captains or owners of eligible vessels refuse the survey please inform them that they could designate a mate to participate.

If they will not designate a mate as the respondent:

Explain that the survey provides an opportunity to improve the quality of catch and effort statistics used to manage the fishery. If they do not participate then they will not be represented in the data collection. Their participation will strengthen the accuracy and precision of the survey.

If they still will not participate, besides tallying as either an initial or mid-interview refusal, you should record the name of the vessel that refused the survey in the comments section of the Site Description Form. You must also provide other details about the refusal, such as the large pelagic fish species that were offloaded, and the reason why the vessel captain/owner/mate refused to participate in the Large Pelagics Intercept Survey.

For Example:

- The captain of the (Boat Name) refused today. I saw them unload 2

school BFT and 1 YFT. He says he will not participate until someone from NOAA convinces him that reporting the information will help his business as well as the fish populations.

To reduce the number of repeat “hostile” sites and refusals, the National Marine Fisheries Service will send a package of Large Pelagics Survey information to site owners or fishery participants that you record on your Site Description Form(s).

Respondents often need to be reassured that the information they provide is confidential under NOAA Administrative order 216-100. Always remind them that you are not there to issue citations or fines, and that all you want to collect is accurate fishery data.

“First Come, First Serve” Rule

It is possible that an LPIS interviewer may arrive on site and find an interviewer canvassing the same site for another NOAA-sponsored fisheries related survey. The LPIS interviewer should introduce themselves, and once they have determined that the other interviewer is interviewing for the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), the LPIS interviewer must relocate to another site in the assigned cluster to avoid having two interviewers working simultaneously at the same site. This policy should minimize, if not completely eliminate, any potential conflicts between LPIS and MRFSS personnel, but should also help alleviate problems with site managers that may have issues with multiple samplers showing up at the site at the same time.

Please note that the MRFSS interviewer should have also been instructed to act in accordance with the “First Come, First Serve” rule. If you arrived before the MRFSS interviewer but the MRFSS interviewer will not leave the site, then obtain their name and leave the site. Report this incident to your Field Supervisor and QuanTech Headquarters within 24 hours.

If you arrive on-site and a MRFSS interviewer is present, and that site happens to be the only site in the cluster. You must cancel your assignment, contact your field supervisor, and reschedule another assignment with your supervisor. QuanTech will pay you for the cancelled assignment when this occurs as long as the cancellation is reported within 24 hours.

Coding

The dockside forms will be read by an optical character recognition (OCR) software package. It is important to follow this coding procedure so the OCR can read the forms.

NEATNESS COUNTS! STAY INSIDE THE LINES! IF YOUR FORMS ARE ILLEGIBLE OR FAXED IMPROPERLY WE WILL CALL YOU AND ASK YOU TO FIX THE ERRORS AND FAX THEM AGAIN.

PLEASE remember to write legibly in Block Capitals (Upper Case) on the dockside forms. Take your time while recording data, in other words, be accurate and precise. Optical recognition software will interpret your entries, so be as neat as possible. Remember, providing quality data is crucial to the success of the study!

As a rule, items on the questionnaire that are not applicable to a certain respondent (i.e., skipped questions) should be left blank, unless otherwise stated.

Items on the questionnaires which the respondent does not know the answers to must be coded with 9's ending with the number 8 unless otherwise stated.

Items on the questionnaires that are refused must be coded with all 9's unless otherwise stated.

Examples of this type of coding can be found in the following examples of Questions 24 through 26:

24. Where were you fishing for large fish?

N	O	R	T	H			O	F		L	U	M	P	S
---	---	---	---	---	--	--	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---

9	9	9	9	► Lat.	9	9	9	9	► Long.
---	---	---	---	--------	---	---	---	---	---------

The respondent said they spent most of their time fishing north of "The Lumps" but refused to give the coordinates. If the respondent said they did not know the coordinates then latitude and longitude should be coded 9998 and 9998.

25. How many miles were you offshore—that is, how many miles was it to the nearest land?

9	9	8	Number of Miles
---	---	---	-----------------

The respondent said they did not know how far offshore they were, thus the 998 code. Had they refused the code would be 999.

26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to bottom)?

9	9	9	8	► Water Depth in Feet
---	---	---	---	-----------------------

The respondent said they did not know how deep the water was, thus the 9998 code. Had they refused the code would be 9999.

Leading Zeros and Punctuation:

If a numeric value does not require the use of all of the boxes provided, right

justify the entry and add leading zeros. For instance, if a fish measurement is 887 millimeters, its length should be coded as follows:

0	8	8	7
---	---	---	---

If an alphabetic value does not require use of all of the boxes provided, left justify the entry as follows. DO NOT INCLUDE PUNCTUATION ANYWHERE ON THE FORMS.

C	H	A	R	L	E	Y		O	D	E	L	L
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---

If a respondent gives a response not covered by the precoded responses at a question that allows for OTHER, the interviewer must write out the angler's response to the side of the boxes on the coding form. Using Question 18 and as an example:

Note that for question 18, the respondent was fishing primarily with a harpoon, thus the interview should be terminated due to ineligibility. Careful use of the screening procedure will insure that only eligible respondents will be interviewed.

18. What type of fishing gear was primarily used?

1 ☐ Rod and Reel

2 ☐ Handline

3 ☒ Other (*SPECIFY*) ► *TERMINATE*

H	A	R	P	O	O	N									
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Note that for question 22, the respondent was trolling, chumming, and fly fishing.

22. For your (*INSERT GEAR*) fishing, which method was used?

(*READ LIST; CHECK ALL THAT APPLY*)

1 ☒ Trolling 1 ☒ Chumming

1 ☐ Chunking 1 ☒ Other (*SPECIFY BELOW*)

F	L	Y		F	I	S	H	I	N	G			
---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--	--	--

Other coding examples can be found in Appendix A.

Do not put a line through zeros or sevens; the OCR will not read these

characters correctly. To ensure that the optical character recognition will read your handwriting, numbers should be written as close as possible to the following format:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

Letters of the alphabet should always be written in **BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS**. Please be neat!

THE ID LISTING

In order to verify information in the field with respondents, QuanTech has compiled a permit listing of vessels. This ID listing is a database containing boat-identifying information, such as the owner's name, the NMFS Highly Migratory Species permit number, and the Coast Guard documentation number or State registration number, sorted by boat name in alphabetical order. An ID listing will be created for each state or state group. Some states will also receive a permit list sorted by ascending hull number. This is helpful for those areas that have a lot of small unnamed private boats targeting tunas. There are privacy issues surrounding these ID lists so the information on these lists should never be shown to anyone else. The information on this list is merely used to assist in the verification of a boat's tuna permit number.

When you check-in at a site and find out what vessels are expected back, if there is time, look up the vessels in the ID listing before they return. Confirm the information with the respondent when conducting an interview. If there is no time to look up the vessels beforehand, ask the questions on the form as they are written. If a respondent does not want to get their permit information, offer to check to see if the boat is on the ID listing. If so, you simply need to verify the listed information with the respondent, instead of formally asking him/her the questions. However, if the vessel is not on the ID listing, then the interviewer should ask them to get the permit information directly from the respondent. Inform the respondent that they would have to just get the information once, be sure to record the information in your copy of the ID listing and tell the respondent that you will inform the other interviewers in your area, in case the respondent is encountered on future assignments.

Keep in mind that, though an intercepted boat may be listed on the ID listing, it is essential that you verify all of the ID listing information with the respondent for the following reasons:

- though the boat may have been interviewed before, it is possible that the respondent was not interviewed (e.g., if a boat has more than one owner);

if this occurs, be sure to get the new respondent's information, so that it can be added to the ID listing;

- there could be a mistake on the ID listing;
- there may be more vessels with the same boat name.

Since we may not be issuing updated ID listings during the season, it is crucial that all interviewers make note of any changes and keep their individual ID lists as accurate as possible and share additions and changes with other QuanTech Fisheries Interviewers.

INTERCEPT SURVEY

Screening for interviews should be conducted anywhere at the assigned site or cluster of sites where there are persons who appear to have just completed offshore large pelagic fishing trips.

Blank forms used for the LPIS can be found in Appendix B.

Screening Introduction

To be eligible for the dockside survey, a potential respondent must:

Be the captain or owner of the boat (or a crew member that has been authorized by the captain to represent the vessel) which had been on a trip that has just completed an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip during which large pelagic fish were either targeted or incidentally caught. Large pelagic fish include tunas, sharks, billfish, swordfish, wahoo, greater amberjack, and dolphin (mahi mahi).

The screening introduction should be administered to determine if the respondent meets these eligibility requirements.

Screener Item 1: On this vessel, are you the captain, owner, or mate or passenger (designated by the captain to participate in this survey)?

- if the respondent says "yes", go to Screener Item 2.
- if the respondent is not the captain or owner or designated mate, try to locate the eligible respondent. Otherwise, terminate the interview, and tally on your Assignment Summary Form as NOT CAPTAIN OWNER OR MATE on the Site Description Form.

Screener Item 2: Did your boat just return from an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip in which you targeted or incidentally caught large fish such as tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, amberjack, or other large

pelagic fish?

- If the respondent says "yes", go to the intercept questionnaire.
- If the respondent says "yes, I was fishing for (any of the following)...king mackerel, bluefish, spanish mackerel, flounder (fluke) or sea bass" then you should ask if he/she was also fishing for any other large pelagic species; (for the purposes of the screening introduction, see definitions for large pelagic species on pages 35 and 36); if the respondent was fishing only for king mackerel, bluefish, spanish mackerel, flounder or sea bass, **AND** did not catch a tuna, shark, billfish, swordfish, wahoo, greater amberjack, or dolphin (mahi mahi), then terminate and tally the respondent on your Site Description Form (SDF) as **DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC FISH** on the site description form.
- If the respondent does not want to participate in the survey (after refusal conversion is attempted by the interviewer), and large pelagic fish are observed being landed from the vessel in plain view, terminate the interview and tally the respondent on your Site Description Form as a **REFUSAL**. Ask the respondent for his name and record the respondent's name and/or vessel name in the comments section of the SDF.
- If the respondent says that they were not targeting large fish, but they happened to catch a large fish, continue the interview as instructed.

Once again, PLEASE remember to write legibly in Block Capitals (Upper Case) on the questionnaire. Take your time while recording data; in other words, be accurate and precise. Optical recognition software will interpret your entries, so be as neat as possible. Remember, providing quality data is crucial to the success of the study!

Intercept Interview

Items 1 through 8 are not questions to be asked of the angler. They are primarily identifying information.

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Item 1 | INTERVIEWER CODE. Each interviewer is given a unique four-digit identification number. This number, found on the back of the Agreement Form, should be used on all submitted forms. |
| Item 2 | DATE OF INTERVIEW. The interviewer should record the Month/Day of the intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used. |
| Item 3 | TIME OF INTERVIEW. Using military time, record the time that the interview was completed. Military time runs on a 24-hour clock starting at 0001 hours (one minute past midnight) and ending at |

2400 hours (midnight).

- Item 4 **STATE CODE.** Enter the two-digit numeric code for the state of intercept. **STATE CODES ARE PROVIDED IN THE BACK OF THIS MANUAL.**
- Item 5 **CONTROL NUMBER.** Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., July 4th, Independence Day). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which charter boat intercepts are preferred, while a 2 indicates that private boat intercepts are desired.

NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR.

- Item 6 **DOCUMENT NUMBER.** Throughout an assignment, the interviewer should consecutively number forms completed for the assignment. BOTH PAGES of the first interview should be numbered 01, BOTH PAGES of the second interview should be numbered 02, etc. All forms sent in should be numbered, regardless of interview status.
- Item 7a **COUNTY.** Enter the three-digit number assigned to the site of the intercept. The county code should be listed on the interviewer assignment listing, as well as in the site register.
- Item 7b **SITE NUMBER.** Enter the four-digit number of the site where the interview is being conducted. The site number should be listed on the interviewer's assignment schedule as one of the sites within the assigned cluster, as well as in the site register.
- Item 7c **CLUSTER.** Enter the two digit number for the cluster of sites that you are assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed in your assignment schedule. Possible values will range from 01, 02, 03...to 10.
- Item 8 **SITE TYPE.** Enter the type of site at which the interview took place.
If you interviewed at a marina, code 1.
If you interviewed on a private dock, code 2.
If you interviewed at a public ramp, code 3.

If you interviewed at some other type of site, code 4.

- Item 9 **BOAT NAME.** If the name of the boat is evident (e.g., if it is written on the boat itself), then you need only verify the information with the respondent, and fill in the name on the coding form. If the boat name is not apparent, ask the respondent "What is the name of your boat?" and fill in the information. If the boat has no name, leave the first set of boxes at Question 9 blank and fill in the "no name" oval underneath.
- Item 10a **WAS THE TRIP TO DATE A CHARTER OR PRIVATE TRIP?**
Item 10a pertains to the type of trip taken that day, private or charter. Fill in the appropriate oval.
- Item 10a **IS YOUR BOAT PRIMARILY A...**
Item 10b records how the boat is primarily used and identifies head boats (which are not eligible for the LPIS). Fill in the appropriate oval.

The next set of questions (Items 11a through 13b) are asked in order to further identify the boat. The best means of identification is the NMFS Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit number. If you are able to obtain that number, you can skip the questions about Coast Guard documentation number. If you obtain this information, then you need not ask about state registration number. If you are unable to obtain either the permit number or the Coast Guard documentation number, then try to obtain the state registration information. It is very important that you get at least one of these identification numbers.

NMFS HMS Permit numbers typically begin with 100 and are eight digits long.

If at any time a number is given as an answer for either 12b or 13b that appears to be legitimate but there are not sufficient boxes for the digits, write the remainder of the number outside the box.

- Item 11a **VESSEL PERMITTED.** If the intercepted vessel's NMFS HMS permit number is contained on the ID listing, you need only verify the information with the respondent. If this is not the case, ask the respondent "Does your boat have a tuna permit number?". If the respondent answers "yes", fill in oval 1 and go to Item 11b. If the respondent answers "no", "don't know" or refuses, fill in ovals 2, 8, or 9 respectively, and go to Item 12a.
- Item 11b **NMFS HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES PERMIT NUMBER.** Enter the vessel's NMFS HMS permit number. If you are able to obtain the tuna permit number, you should skip to Item 14. If the

respondent does not know or refuses to give his/her number, check the "don't know" or "refused" boxes, as appropriate, and go to Item 12a.

- Item 12a VESSEL DOCUMENTED. If you were unable to get a NMFS HMS/permit number, you should ask Item 12a. If the intercepted vessel's Coast Guard documentation number is contained on your ID listing, you need only verify the information with the respondent. If this is not the case, ask the respondent "Is your vessel documented with the Coast Guard?". If the respondent says "yes", fill in oval 1 and go to Item 12b. If the respondent answers "no", "don't know" or refuses, fill in ovals 2, 8, or 9 respectively, and go to Item 13a.
- Item 12b VESSEL DOCUMENTATION. Enter the intercepted vessel's Coast Guard documentation number. If the Coast Guard number is not already contained on the ID listing, chances are the respondent will have to do a little searching to locate it (it probably will not be on the side of the boat). Encourage the respondent to find the number, and tell him/her that once we get the number into our database, we shouldn't have to ask them to search for it again. If they do not know the number and/or cannot find it, fill in the "don't know" oval and go to Item 13a. If they refuse to give you the number, fill in the "refused" oval and go to Item 13a.
- Item 13a VESSEL REGISTERED. If you were unable to get a tuna permit number or a Coast Guard documentation number, you will need to ask Item 13a. If the intercepted vessel's state registration is apparent (on the side of the boat), or if you have the registration number listed on your ID listing, you need only verify the information with the respondent. If this is not the case, ask the respondent "Does your boat have a state registration number?".
- Item 13b VESSEL REGISTRATION. Enter the intercepted vessel's state registration number. If the number is written on the side of the boat, or if the state registration number is contained on your ID listing, you need only verify the information with the respondent, and fill in the information on the coding form (including the state abbreviation). If you can not determine the state registration number, ask the respondent "What is your boat's state registration number?" and fill in the information (including the state abbreviation). If the vessel is not registered, or if you are unable to obtain the registration number, leave Item 13b blank.
- Item 14 STATE CODE. Record the 2 digit numeric state code for which the respondent **indicates is the vessel's primary port state** in the

next set of boxes, record the state's abbreviation as well.

Item 15 **RETURN TIME.** The purpose of this question is to determine when the respondent returned from his/her trip. If you actually see the respondent return to the site, you need only verify the return time with him/her. Otherwise you should ask "At about what time did your boat return to this site?". Returning boats that had docked prior to the assignment start time will be included in the dockside survey. Please interview eligible boats regardless of their arrival time on that day. **Use military time to record the return time.**

Item 16 **TARGET SPECIES.** Fill in the appropriate code for the species or species group that the respondent was primarily targeting on the intercepted trip. It is important that you probe to find the primary target species, since there is room for only one response on the coding form. If the primary species code is not listed, simply record the actual species name in the blank provided. **If the angler says they were targeting SHARKS but will not specify species then code 3591 for Unknown Shark. The code for unclassified Tuna is 4656. The code for "All species combined" is 8888. Code 5250 for "OTHER". See other species codes on pages 35 and 36.**

If the angler states that he/she was targeting bluefin tuna, be sure to determine which size class they were targeting! **If the person will not specify which size class of bluefin tuna they are targeting, code 4670.**

See additional large pelagic species designation/codes below on page:

Item 17a **TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION.** Check the appropriate box to indicate if the intercepted vessel was participating in a tournament on the intercepted trip.

Item 17b **TOURNAMENT NAME.** If the respondent answered yes at question 17a, ask for the name of the tournament at question 17b, and fill in the name on the coding form (one letter per box). If the angler was not fishing in a tournament, leave Item 17b blank.

Item 18 **PRIMARY GEAR.** Indicate the primary fishing gear used on the intercepted trip. In most areas, this will usually be oval 1 (rod and reel). If the angler states that a fishing gear other than rod and reel or handline was primarily used, fill in oval 3, write in the other gear and terminate the interview.

Item 19 **NUMBER OF LINES.** Interviewers should enter the number of lines the boat had in the water.

- Items 20 HOURS FISHED. Indicate the number of hours spent actually fishing with the primary gear. Do not include the time spent traveling to and from the fishing area.
- Item 21 BAIT USED. Indicate if live, dead, and/or artificial bait was used on the intercepted trip with the primary fishing gear. Be sure to fill in all ovals that apply.
- Item 22 METHOD(S) USED. Indicate whether anglers were trolling, chumming or chunking or other- *Fill in all ovals that apply and SPECIFY IF OTHER.*
- Item 23 NUMBER OF ANGLERS. Indicate the total number of anglers who were actively involved in large pelagic fishing on the intercepted trip. Do not include persons who did no fishing.
- Item 24 LOCATION. Indicate the latitude and longitude coordinates of the main fishing site that was used for the intercepted trip. If the respondent states that he/she was fishing at one of the sites listed on the fishing area list, write the area name on the line provided and fill in the corresponding lat/long (which should be provided on the area list in Appendix C). If the respondent was not fishing at one of the listed area, ask the respondent to indicate the area at which he/she was fishing and obtain the lat/long if possible.
- Item 25 MILES OFFSHORE. Indicate the maximum number of miles that the intercepted vessel strayed from land on the intercepted trip. Be sure to get the mileage to the nearest point of land, as opposed to the mileage to the site of intercept.
- Item 26 WATER DEPTH. Indicate the depth (in feet) at the intercepted vessel's fishing location. If the respondent cannot provide an exact depth, try to obtain a depth range, and use the midpoint. If the response is given in fathoms, remember that
- **6 FEET = 1 FATHOM**
- and adjust the response accordingly, or just write the number of fathoms to the side of the boxes on the coding form, and later convert the measurement to feet.
- Item 27 WATER TEMPERATURE. Indicate the surface water temperature in degrees Fahrenheit. This can usually be obtained from the captain.

Item 28 **NAME AND PHONE.** QuanTech, Inc. is contractually required to a percentage of all interviews. To do so, we must have a name and phone number where the respondent can be reached for an extremely short interview (about 2 minutes). This number will not be used for the Large Pelagic Telephone Survey, and the respondent does not necessarily need to give his/her full name, or a home phone number. (A first name and a work phone number is fine.) Clearly record the respondent's name and phone number (including area code) in the appropriate boxes on the coding form.

Were any fish caught, landed, or released? If yes then the interviewer will continue the interview on the second page. If respondent answered no then the interview is completed. Additionally, if respondent answers no then only the first page of the intercept will be faxed to QuanTech. Always remember to fill in one of the two ovals. Otherwise, QuanTech will be unable to determine whether or not there should be a second page tied to the intercept.

Questions 4, 5 and 6 are repeated at the top of the second page. This will prevent confusion when numerous forms are faxed in to the home office. Always complete these blocks!

Item 29 **CAUGHT FISH.** Indicate if any fish were caught on the fishing trip. If fish were caught, fill in oval 1 for "yes". If no fish were caught, the respondent claims that they do not know if fish were caught, or if they refuse to answer, fill in oval 2, 8, or 9 as appropriate, end the interview, and thank the respondent for their time. Be especially careful to fill in the correct response at Item 30.

Item 30 **FISH COUNTS.** If fish were caught, indicate, by species:

- the number of fish that the angler kept.
- the number of fish released alive;
- the number of fish released dead;
- the number of fish kept that have been or will be sold.

If you are absolutely certain that the respondent is making a mistake in count or species identification, you should record the correct information on your form, as opposed to the incorrect information supplied by the respondent.

There is also a category for "SELL" fish. Be sure that the respondent includes all kept fish when you ask the first part of Item 30. When you ask "How many of

The Field Guide of Large Pelagic Fish Species and Guide to the Tunas of the Western Atlantic will help with species identifications. Peterson's Field Guide to Atlantic Coast Fishes of North America is also a good source of information.

Fill out the corresponding coding boxes for each species that the angler caught. If the angler cannot remember or refuses to indicate how many he/she kept or released of a certain species, record "don't know" or "refused" (as appropriate) in the spaces provided. If the angler kept none of the fish he/she caught, be sure to fill in 00 in the appropriate boxes. Do not leave the boxes blank!

If you encounter another type of fish species not listed in the table, write in the name of the species at the "Other" line, along with the species counts. All fish caught should be included on form even if they are not large pelagic fish. If there are more than two "Other" fish (fish not on the list of species), use as many second pages of the interview form as necessary to include all fish caught. On each second page make sure you fill in Items 4 through 6 at the top of the page.

In the example below, on this interview, 1 yellowfin tuna was kept but there was also some bycatch of bluefish. The code for bluefish is 0230, there were 7 kept and 3 released alive, none released dead, and none to sell.

22

Always remember to probe for bycatch.

Item 31 **FISH AVAILABLE TO LOOK AT.** If the angler did catch and keep any fish, ask "May I measure the fish?". If the respondent says "yes", fill in oval 1. If the respondent refuses to let you measure the fish, or has no fish available to look at, then fill in oval 2. If fish were kept but not measured, then provide the reason why in the NOTES section.

IMPORTANT

- If you cannot measure the fish whole or gutted it does not belong under item 32.
- Only record measurements in item 32 if you measured the fish yourself.
- Fish that have been filleted are not considered "available to look at". If you encounter fish that are filleted, do not include them at Item 32.

If the respondent does have large pelagic fish for you to look at, you should proceed with the collection of the following data:

SPECIES CODE. **Use the four digit species codes listed for Items 31; if the species code is not listed, record the actual species name in the boxes for other at the bottom of the table.**

Remember, there are 1000 millimeters in one meter...

STRAIGHT FORK LENGTH (SFL).

Measure using a metal measuring tape and record only the straight fork length of the fish in millimeters.

CURVED FORK LENGTH (CFL).

**Required for BFT, obtain for other tunas if time permits.
Measure using a cloth or plastic measuring tape and record only the curved fork length of the fish in millimeters.**

GENDER (GEN). **For all sharks and dolphin (mahi mahi), record the gender of each fish (1=male, 2=female, 8=undetermined).**

PREP. **Record the preparation of the species (0=whole, 2=gutted, 6=pectoral length measurement large medium and giant bluefin tuna size classes only).**

See Appendix D for information on obtaining fish lengths. Only fish that are whole or gutted should be measured (prep= 0 or 2). The ONLY exception to this rule is for Giant Category and Large Medium Category bluefin tuna. If these fish are brought in headed then the interviewer should obtain both straight and curved pectoral length measurements and place a 6 in the PREP code box

indicating a pectoral length measurement. DO NOT RECORD A PECTORAL MEASUREMENT FOR ANY OTHER FISH SPECIES OR BLUEFIN TUNA SIZE CATEGORY.

Special boxes for measuring billfish and swordfish are located at the bottom of the second page of the intercept questionnaire. There are boxes for both an upper bill measurement (tip of upper bill to fork in the tail) and a lower jaw measurement (tip of lower jaw to fork in the tail). If you measure a billfish, record the upper bill length measurement **ONLY IF** the bill is intact (complete). Do not record the upper bill length if the bill is broken.

Creel Census Information

Only ten fish of any one species/size class should be recorded at Item 31 for each page. If you inspect more fish than will fit on one page, fill in Items 4 through 6 at the top of the second half of another form and use that form to fill in the remaining fish.

SUB-SAMPLING.

When measuring fish, it may not be possible to obtain length information for all of the available fish. If there are so many fish that individual measurements cannot be obtained, then a representative sample of fish should be measured.

For example, if there were 38 dolphin (mahi mahi) and there is only time to record 10 measurements, then ten fish could be sub-sampled.

To randomly sub-sample the fish, you should blindly determine which fish you inspect; *do not purposely try to pick the fish that look "average"*. The best random sampling method for this situation is to line up the fish from smallest to largest and count them, then divide the number of fish available for measurement by the number of length observations that are obtainable. Following the above example, recall that you estimate that you have time to measure 10 fish...

If there are 38 dolphin lined up from smallest to largest...
then 38 divided by 10 is 3.8...
then round to nearest integer...in this case 4
then begin by counting from the smallest or largest fish first and go down the line and measure every 4th fish

Remember that if you encounter a bluefin tuna, its size classification should be determined by its straight fork length. If an angler tells you that he/she caught a large school bluefin at Item 30, for instance, and you find that it actually measures 1465 millimeters, you should record it as a small medium bluefin at Item 30. You should also make sure that you record it as a small medium in Item 31.

LENGTH. Fish lengths should be recorded to the nearest millimeter (do not use inches or centimeters)! Most of the measuring tapes that will be used for the LPIS will be marked in both the metric and english measurements. To determine millimeters, multiply the centimeter reading by 10 and add the number of smaller markings past the centimeter marking. For example, a fish that measures to the small line past 73 centimeters would be 731 millimeters. Since four coding boxes are provided for the length, the length should be coded as 0731. Interviewers should be careful not to introduce digit bias into their measurements -- do not round off--0731 to 0730! Interviewers will also be provided with measuring tapes.

Reminder: A new requirement for 2005 will be to obtain both straight fork length (SFL) and curved fork length (CFL) for bluefin tuna that are available to measure. If time permits, interviewers should obtain both SFL and CFL for other tunas as well.

Do not obtain pectoral fin measurements (from base of pectoral fin to fork in tail) for fish that have been beheaded unless it is a giant or large medium bluefin tuna. Fish that have had their tail cut off should not be measured.

SEE YOUR FIELD GUIDE OF LARGE PELAGIC FISH SPECIES FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT IDENTIFYING, MEASURING, AND DETERMINING GENDER OF FISH.

NOTE: PLEASE FORWARD ANY NEWSPAPER ARTICLES FOCUSING ON LARGE PELAGIC FISHING IN YOUR AREA TO QUANTECH. You will be the individuals best capable of providing the QuanTech headquarters with local information affecting large pelagic fishing.

SITE DESCRIPTION FORM

The Site Description Form (SDF) is used to summarize the results of the completed assignment with information from each site (within a cluster). Each assignment that you send in must include a Site Description Form. An example of a blank Site Description Form may be found in Appendix B.

INTERVIEWER CODE: Each interviewer is given a unique four-digit identification number. This number, found on the back of the Agreement, should be used on all submitted forms.

INTERVIEW DATE: The interviewer should record the Month/Day of the

intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used.

- STATE CODE:** Enter the two-digit numeric code for the state of intercept. The state code list may be found in Appendix E.
- CLUSTER ID.** Enter the two digit number for the cluster of sites that you are assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed in your assignment schedule. Possible values will range from 01, 02, 03...to 10.
- CONTROL NUMBER:** Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., July 4th, Independence Day). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which charter boat intercepts are preferred, while a 2 indicates that private boat intercepts are desired. NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR.
- SITE #1 CODE** Enter the four-digit number of the first site visited where interviews are being conducted. The site number should be listed on the interviewer's assignment schedule as one of the sites within the assigned cluster, as well as in the site register.
- COUNTY CODE #1** Enter the three-digit number assigned to the site visited where interviews are being conducted. The county code should be listed on the interviewer's assignment schedule, as well as in the site register.
- ESTIMATE # OF ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH** Estimate the number of eligible vessels per day for the current month on a good weather day that will return to the site. This estimate will likely vary according to the number of private or charter boats at each site and the day type (weekend or weekday).

Under "PR" enter the numbers estimated for both weekend and weekday for Private boat trips. Under "CH" enter the number estimated for both weekend and weekday for Charter boat trips.

BEST TIME

Enter the code for the best time to intercept vessels according to weekend and weekday for each boat trip type (charter and private).

STATUS:

All intercepted persons should be classified under the appropriate status and tallied on the Site Description Form for each site. Status definitions are as follows:

COMPLETED
INTERVIEWS

Enter the number of completed verifiable interviews with eligible respondents according to Question 11b, Permit Type (CH for charter/headboat permitted vessels, PR for General and Angling permitted vessels).

Permit type should be verified using the permit listing, if the vessel is listed.

If the respondent does not have a HMS permit, does not know what type, refused the question, and the vessel is not listed in the permit listing, please refer to Question 10a, Boat Primarily Operated As...

If the respondent does not know or refuses to answer 10a, then refer to 10b, trip today. If the respondent does not know or refuses to answer 10b, please note in the comments section of the SDF.

To the right of "PR" enter the number of private boat trip interviews. To the right of "CH", enter the number of charter type trip interviews.

The interview is considered a completed verifiable interview with an eligible respondent if there is:

- A respondent name and telephone number

or

- A boat name and vessel identifier that is in the ID listing

MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS	If you initiated the interview questionnaire with someone but they terminated the interview after you began asking questions, thank them for their time and tally.
INITIAL REFUSALS	If a seemingly eligible respondent refuses to be interviewed at all, it is considered an "initial refusal" and should be tallied. Ask the person his or her name and record it along with the boat name (and any other identifying information, such as state registration #) in the comments section of the SDF.
LANGUAGE BARRIER:	Fill in the number of interviews you could not obtain due to language incompatibility. If you initiated an interview with an respondent, but were unable to continue due to communication (language) problems, tally. You may conduct the interview with a captain's translator, if one is present. If this does occur, please note this on the SDF.
ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS	Determine the number of boats that you miss at each site because you are in the midst of another interview. Record the number of boats appearing to be eligible that you are unable to intercept at each site because you were interviewing another vessel's respondent. Do not include boats that may be at other sites within the cluster. Rather, include those vessels in the section for the other site.
BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED	When you leave a site within the assigned cluster, and there are still boats that are expected back, record the number of vessels that have not yet returned.
<i>Ineligibles</i> When you are conducting an assignment, all intercepted respondents who are determined ineligible during the screening introduction should be tallied in the appropriate boxes in this section.	
DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES	If you discover during the screening process that you

have intercepted someone that did not just complete an offshore oceanic fishing trip during which they targeted, caught, released, or incidentally caught large pelagic fish, then tally the respondent as 'DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC FISH'.

If large pelagic fish are in plain view and the respondent claims that they did not target or catch large pelagic fish, then do not tally this person as 'DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC FISH'. Instead, tally the respondent as an initial refusal and ask the person his or her name and record it along with the boat name (and any other identifying information, such as state registration #) in the comments section of the SDF.

**NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER
OR MATE**

If you discover during the screening process that you have intercepted someone who is not the captain, owner or mate of the boat (Screener Item 1) then try to locate the eligible respondent, if all eligible respondents for the vessel have already left the site then tally as 'NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE'.

RECORD DATA FOR EACH SITE WITHIN THE CLUSTER THAT YOU VISIT.

SITE CODE, COUNTY CODE, ESTIMATE # OF ELIGIBLE VESSELS PER DAY FOR CURRENT MONTH, BEST TIME, COMPLETED INTERVIEWS BY BOAT TYPE, MID-INTERVIEW REFUSALS, INITIAL REFUSALS, LANGUAGE BARRIER, ESTIMATE OF MISSED ELIGIBLE BOATS, BOATS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED, DID NOT TARGET OR CATCH LARGE PELAGIC SPECIES, and NOT CAPTAIN/OWNER OR MATE.

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY FORM

The Assignment Summary Form (ASF) is used to summarize the results of the completed assignment, and to charge for work done on the assignment. Each assignment that you send in must include an Assignment Summary Form. An example of a blank Assignment Summary Form may be found in Appendix B.

INTERVIEWER NAME: The interviewer should PRINT his or her name in BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS.

INTERVIEWER CODE: Each interviewer is given a unique four-digit identification number. This number, found on the back of the Agreement, should be used on all submitted forms.

INTERVIEW DATE: The interviewer should record the Month/Day of the intercept. Two digits for both the month and the day should be used.

CONTROL NUMBER: Each assignment is given a four-digit identifying number. The first digit of the control number indicates if it is a weekend or weekday assignment. If the first digit is a 1, it is scheduled for a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday (e.g., July 4th, Independence Day). If the first digit is a 2, it is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday. The second digit indicates the mode of the assignment. A 1 indicates an assignment during which charter boat intercepts are preferred, while a 2 indicates that private boat intercepts are desired. **NEVER LEAVE THE CONTROL NUMBER BLANK. BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE THE CORRECT CONTROL NUMBER GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR FIELD SUPERVISOR.**

STATE CODE: Enter the two-digit numeric code for the state of intercept. The state code list may be found in Appendix E.

COUNTY. Enter the three-digit number assigned to the site of the intercept. The county code should be listed on the interviewer's assignment schedule, as well as in the site register.

CLUSTER ID. Enter the two digit number for the cluster of sites that you are assigned for that day. The cluster number should be listed in your assignment schedule. Possible values will range from 01, 02, 03...to 10.

BEGIN. Enter the time (military format) when you begin your assignment. That is, enter the time when you arrive on-site to begin your assignment.

END. Enter the time (military format) when you finish your assignment. That is, enter the time when you leave the cluster and terminate the assignment.

Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore?

Fill in the oval for "Yes" if the weather conditions are favorable for offshore fishing. If the offshore conditions are poor, fill in the oval for "No". In general, strong winds (25-30 knots, especially from the Northeast) and high seas (especially greater than 8-10 feet) will cause many offshore fishermen to cancel their trips. Assignments that are conducted despite poor offshore conditions should be attempted only when fishing activity can be confirmed beforehand.

Time and Expense Report

TOTAL 1 Record your base rate for the assignment in the boxes to the left of "TOTAL 1".

TOTAL 2 Record the number of complete verifiable interviews with eligible respondents you obtained and enter the bonus for the month during which the assignment was completed. Multiply the number of complete verifiable interviews with eligible respondents by the bonus and record the result in the boxes to the left of "TOTAL 2".

TOTAL 3 Fill in the last four digits of your beginning and ending odometer readings, and calculate the total round trip mileage from your home to the assigned site(s) and back. You should include driving mileage between sites within the cluster as well. You will be reimbursed \$0.405 for each mile traveled. Multiply your round-trip mileage by \$0.405 and enter the total in the boxes to the left of "TOTAL 3".

OTHER AUTHORIZED EXPENSES:

This section should be used to record expenses such as tolls, parking fees, ferry fees, or phone calls to your area supervisor. **Any expense claimed in this section must be accompanied by a copy of the receipt!** Label and record the cost of each expense on the lines provided. Any expense other than tolls, parking fees, ferry fees, or phone calls to your area supervisor must be authorized by QuanTech headquarters staff in writing.

GRAND TOTAL: The grand total is the sum of TOTAL 1, TOTAL 2, TOTAL 3, and other authorized expenses incurred on the assignment. Record the total of these items in the boxes to the right of "GRAND TOTAL".

SIGN IN

All interviewers are required to introduce themselves to the dockmaster or marina operator upon arrival to each site within the assigned cluster. Request and record the person's name and contact number, then ask the dockmaster or marina operator if they would verify your presence by writing their initials on your ASF.

ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

Data Delivery

Because of the rigid requirements for the LPIS, it is vital that QuanTech receive all completed Assignment Summary Forms, Site Description Forms, and Interview Questionnaires within 24 hours of assignment completion. To accomplish this, we are distributing FAX machines **ON LOAN**. Interviewers are responsible for making arrangements to fax each day's work to QuanTech within 24 hours of assignment completion. Fax your forms IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER starting with the assignment summary form first and the site description form second. If you forget to fax your forms in or there are any problems with the OCR data capture system reading your forms you may be asked to re-edit and re-fax your forms.

Only one fax TRANSMISSION per assignment. That is, if you are sending in forms from two assignments they must be sent separately!

QuanTech has provided a Toll Free FAX number for your convenience

Please fax all pages in order (assignment summary first, serving as the cover sheet) to **1-877-694-8808**.

If for any reason you are unable to fax completed forms within the time schedule, you must contact QuanTech and your Field Supervisor immediately so arrangements can be made to get your forms faxed in. We will not pay for any assignment that arrives at QuanTech too late for inclusion in each week's data delivery to NMFS.

Pay Schedule

Paychecks for fisheries interviewers are mailed every two weeks.

Interviewer Status

All QuanTech interviewers are considered independent contractors. This means that no taxes will be withheld from an interviewer's check. Interviewers are responsible for keeping track of all personal finances relevant to state, local, and federal tax laws. If you have any questions about this, you should ask your Field Supervisor. Interviewers are not NMFS employees.

PERSONNEL ROLES

State Supervisor

Each state or state group has a state supervisor (Field Supervisor). This person is someone who is knowledgeable in the local fishing activity and fisheries in your area, and who is a veteran field interviewer. This person will also be responsible for coordinating assignment scheduling, as well as occasional quality control visits. You should contact your Field Supervisor whenever you:

- Need advice on fish identification;
- Have a question about the site register or a certain site; or
- Have a question about general interviewing procedures or coding.

As previously indicated you will have a field supervisor that also schedules the dockside assignments. Therefore, your primary contact while working on the LPIS will be your Field Supervisor.

You will contact your Field Supervisor for the following reasons:

- To reschedule or cancel an assignment;
- To see if there are any additional assignments available;

If you need to contact Daemian Schreiber at the QuanTech headquarters office to get more paperwork or supplies you may call or email him.

Daemian's e-mail address is dschreiber@quantech.com

The headquarters office can be reached at 1-800-229-5220

Press 8 for Daemian Schreiber
Press 7 for Rob O'Haver

Headquarters staff may also be in contact with you from time to time to verify information or critique your paperwork.

Large Pelagics Species?	Species Code	Species Name
NO	0180	Barracuda
NO	0230	Bluefish
NO	0570	Cobia
NO	0815	Cod (Unclassified)
NO	1219	Summer Flounder (Unclassified)
NO	1940	King Mackerel
NO	2695	Pollock (Unclassified)
NO	3350	Black Sea Bass
NO	3511	Smooth Dogfish
NO	3521	Spiny Dogfish
NO	3840	Spanish Mackerel
YES	0030	Greater Amberjack
YES	0330	Atlantic Bonito
YES	1050	Dolphin
YES	2161	White Marlin
YES	2171	Blue Marlin
YES	3026	Sailfish
YES	3531	Common Thresher
YES	3541	Bigeye Thresher
YES	3551	Shortfin Mako
YES	3581	Longfin Mako
YES	4328	Swordfish
YES	4661	Skipjack
YES	4670	Bluefin Tuna (Unclassified)
YES	4671	BFT - Giant (1956mm+)
YES	4673	BFT - Young School (1-655mm)
YES	4676	BFT - Small Medium (1446-1785mm)
YES	4677	BFT - School (656-1145mm)
YES	4678	BFT - Large School (1146-1445mm)
YES	4679	BFT - Large Medium (1486-1955mm)
YES	4681	Little Tunny
YES	4691	Bigeye Tuna
YES	4701	Albacore
YES	4711	Yellowfin Tuna
YES	4720	Wahoo
YES	4781	Scalloped Hammerhead
YES	4791	Smooth Hammerhead
YES	4801	White Shark
YES	4811	Porbeagle Shark
YES	4821	Sandbar Shark
YES	4831	Bignose Shark
YES	4841	Dusky Shark
YES	4851	Silky Shark
YES	4861	Night Shark
YES	4871	Black Tip Shark
YES	4881	Spinner Shark

YES	4891	Bull Shark
YES	4901	Oceanic Whitetip Shark
YES	4931	Blue Shark
YES	4951	Great Hammerhead
YES	2181	Marlin (Unclassified)
YES	3571	Mako Shark (Unclassified)
	3591	Unknown Shark
YES	4656	Unknown Tuna
YES	5250	Other Large Pelagic Species
	8888	All Species Combined

APPENDIX A

CODING EXAMPLES

NAME SUSAN YORK INTERVIEWER CODE 6008

DATE (MO/DAY) 0601 STATE CODE 24 COUNTY 047

CLUSTER ID 001 CONTROL # 2101 BEGIN 1530

Weather Favorable ☒ Yes
Fishing Offshore? ☐ No

END
(USE 24 HR CLOCK) 1855

Weather Favorable for Fishing Offshore?

Yes
No

END
(USE 24 HR CLOCK)

ASSIGNMENT RATE \$

1	6
---	---

 .

0	0
---	---

 TOTAL 1

OF COMPLETE VERIFIABLE INTERVIEWS WITH ELIGIBLE RESPONDENTS

PR

0	1
---	---

 x (BONUS) \$

0	5
---	---

 .

0	0
---	---

 = \$

0	5
---	---

 .

0	0
---	---

 TOTAL 2

CH

0	1
---	---

 x (BONUS) \$

0	5
---	---

 .

0	0
---	---

 = \$

0	5
---	---

 .

0	0
---	---

 TOTAL 3

TRAVEL

9	4	3	1
---	---	---	---

ENDING ODOMETER

9	4	0	1
---	---	---	---

BEGINNING ODOMETER

030 TOTAL MILEAGE @ $\frac{0.405}{\$0.345}$ / MILE = \$ 12.15 TOTAL 4

OTHER AUTHORIZED EXPENSES (SPECIFY)

EXPENSES (SPECIFY) _____ \$ _____

_____ \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL \$ 38.15

Mr./Ms. York is interviewing boat owners and captains today at Bahia Marsha as part of an on-going Federal study to obtain recreational catch and effort information associated with larger offshore fish such as tuna, sharks, and billfish.

QuanTech, Inc., of Arlington, Virginia, is carrying out interviewing at your facility. Should you have any questions or concerns about the survey or the interviewer assigned to your facility, you may contact Daemian Schreiber at (800) 229-5220, extension 7831.

Our survey procedures require me to sign in and out at each fishing location that I visit.
Could I have your name and a phone number here?

CONTACT PERSON

[illegible]

PHONE NUMBER

4	1	0	2	8	9	7	4	3	8
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Time: 3:30 pm Initials: DBS

SITE DESCRIPTION FORM - LARGE PELAGICS INTERCEPT SURVEY

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 6008 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MM / DD) 0601

3. STATE CODE 24 4. CLUSTER 01 5. CONTROL NUMBER 2101

SITE

SITE #1 NAME

BAHIA MARINA

SITE #1
CODE

0004

COUNTY
CODE #1

047

PR

CH

BEST TIME CODES
1 = 8am-12pm 2 = 12pm-4pm
3 = 4pm-8pm 4 = 8pm-Midnight

ESTIMATE # of ELIGIBLE
VESSELS PER DAY FOR
CURRENT MONTH

WE WD WE WD
01 00 04 00

BEST TIME

3 3 3 3

COMPLETED
INTERVIEWS

PR

01

MID-INTERVIEW
REFUSALS

00

INITIAL
REFUSALS

01

LANGUAGE
BARRIER

00

ESTIMATE OF
MISSED ELIGIBLE
BOATS

00

BOATS THAT
HAVE NOT
RETURNED

00

DID NOT TARGET
OR CATCH LARGE
PELAGIC SPECIES

03

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

00

CH

01

SITE #2 NAME

HARBOR ISLAND

SITE #2
CODE

0019

COUNTY
CODE #2

047

PR

CH

BEST TIME CODES
1 = 8am-12pm 2 = 12pm-4pm
3 = 4pm-8pm 4 = 8pm-Midnight

ESTIMATE # of ELIGIBLE
VESSELS PER DAY FOR
CURRENT MONTH

WE WD WE WD
02 00 00 00

BEST TIME

3 3 3 3

COMPLETED
INTERVIEWS

PR

00

MID-INTERVIEW
REFUSALS

00

INITIAL
REFUSALS

00

LANGUAGE
BARRIER

00

ESTIMATE OF
MISSED ELIGIBLE
BOATS

00

BOATS THAT
HAVE NOT
RETURNED

00

DID NOT TARGET
OR CATCH LARGE
PELAGIC SPECIES

00

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

00

CH

00

SITE #3 NAME

SITE #3
CODE

COUNTY
CODE #3

PR

CH

BEST TIME CODES
1 = 8am-12pm 2 = 12pm-4pm
3 = 4pm-8pm 4 = 8pm-Midnight

ESTIMATE # of ELIGIBLE
VESSELS PER DAY FOR
CURRENT MONTH

WE WD WE WD

BEST TIME

COMPLETED
INTERVIEWS

PR

MID-INTERVIEW
REFUSALS

INITIAL
REFUSALS

LANGUAGE
BARRIER

ESTIMATE OF
MISSED ELIGIBLE
BOATS

BOATS THAT
HAVE NOT
RETURNED

DID NOT TARGET
OR CATCH LARGE
PELAGIC SPECIES

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

CH

COMMENTS:

Refusal from "Reel Life", BFT on board, would not
say why he would not participate

2005 Large Pelagics Intercept Survey Questionnaire OMB No. 0648-0380 (Exp. 5/31/2006)

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 6008 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MO / DAY) 06 / 01 3. INTERVIEW TIME 1604
(USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

4. STATE CODE 24 5. CONTROL NUMBER 2101 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER 01
7a. COUNTY 047 7b. SITE 0004 7c. CLUSTER 01 8. SITE TYPE 1

1 = Marina
2 = Private Dock
3 = Public Ramp
4 = Other

9. What is the name of your boat?

HOOK'EM

2 (MARK HERE IF THE BOAT DOES NOT HAVE A NAME)

10a. Is your boat primarily operated as a...

- 1 ☒ Private Boat 8 ☐ Don't Know
2 ☐ Charter Boat 9 ☐ Refused
3 ☐ Party/Head Boat ▶ TERMINATE

10b. Was the trip today a charter trip or private trip?

- 1 ☐ Charter 8 ☐ Don't know
2 ☒ Private 9 ☐ Refused

11a. Does your boat have a NMFS HMS permit number?

- 1 ☒ Yes 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ GO TO Q.12A
2 ☐ No ▶ GO TO Q.12A 9 ☐ Refused ▶ GO TO Q.12A

11b. What category is your NMFS HMS permit?

- 1 ☐ General 8 ☐ Don't know
2 ☒ Angling 9 ☐ Refused
3 ☐ Charter/Head Boat

11c. What is your boat's NMFS HMS permit number?

10023456 (IF NUMBER GIVEN, SKIP TO Q.14)
☐ Don't know ☐ Refused

12a. Is your boat documented with the Coast Guard?

- 1 ☐ Yes 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ GO TO Q.13A
2 ☐ No ▶ GO TO Q.13A 9 ☐ Refused ▶ GO TO Q.13A

12b. What is your boat's Coast Guard document number?

(IF NUMBER GIVEN, SKIP TO Q.14)
☐ Don't know ☐ Refused

13a. Does your boat have a state registration number?

- 1 ☐ Yes 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ GO TO Q.14
2 ☐ No ▶ GO TO Q.14 9 ☐ Refused ▶ GO TO Q.14

13b. What is your boat's state registration number?

(IF NUMBER GIVEN, SKIP TO Q.14)
☐ Don't know ☐ Refused

14. What State is the principle port location listed on your permit application?

24 State FIPS Code (NUMBERS) MD State Postal Code (LETTERS)

15. At about what time did your boat return to this site?

1600 (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

16. For what species were you primarily fishing today?

4711 Species Name YFT

(Probe for one species. If Bluefin Tuna, probe for size category. Choose appropriate code from Coding List.)

17a. Were you participating in a tournament today?

- 1 ☐ Yes 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ GO TO Q.18
2 ☒ No ▶ SKIP TO Q.18 9 ☐ Refused ▶ GO TO Q.18

28. In the event that my supervisor wishes to verify that I have been conducting interviews here today, may I have your name and telephone number?

RESPONDENT'S NAME

JERRY SMITH

TELEPHONE NUMBER

4102223456

2 (MARK HERE IF THE RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER)

INTERVIEWER: WERE ANY FISH CAUGHT BY THE VESSEL (Q.29 = YES)?

☒ YES ☐ NO

INTERVIEWER, PLEASE RE-RECORD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE FRONT OF THIS INTERCEPT FORM:

4. STATE CODE

24

5. CONTROL NUMBER

2101

6. DOCUMENT NUMBER

01

29. Did you or anglers on your boat catch any tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish today?

1 ☒ Yes → GO TO Q.30

2 ☐ No → THANK RESPONDENT

8 ☐ Don't know → THANK RESPONDENT

9 ☐ Refused

30. What species were caught? SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK:
How many of those did you keep? How many of those were released alive?
How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold?

Species / Size Category		Species Code	Number Kept	Number Released		Number to Sell	
				Alive	Dead		
BFT	Young School (1 - 655 mm)	4673					
	School (656 - 1145 mm)	4677					
	Large School (1146 - 1445 mm)	4678	01	00	00	00	
	Small Medium (1446 - 1785 mm)	4676					
	Large Medium (1786 - 1955 mm)	4679					
	Giant (1956+ mm)	4671					
+	Bigeye Tuna	4691					
	Albacore	4701					
NOTES:	Yellowfin Tuna	4711	01	00	00	00	
	Skipjack Tuna	4661					
	Blue Marlin	2171					
	White Marlin	2161					
	Sailfish	3026					
	Swordfish	4328					
	Shortfin Mako Shark	3551					
	Longfin Mako Shark	3581					
	White Shark	4801					
	Tiger Shark	4911					
	Great Hammerhead Shark	4951					
	Blue Shark	4931					
	Common Thresher Shark	3531					
	Dusky Shark	4841					
	Sandbar Shark	4821					
	Sand Tiger Shark	3491					
	Little Tunny	4681					
	Atlantic Bonito	0330					
	King Mackerel	1940					
	Dolphin	1050					
	Greater Amberjack	0030					
	Wahoo	4720					
	Other	BLUEFISH		0230	00	04	00
	Other						

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not measured, then provide reason why fish were not measured in notes section above.)

1 ☒ Yes → RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, GENDER, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN

2 ☐ No → THANK RESPONDENT

GENDER CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE

PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH: VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP
1. 4711	0987	0999		0	6.				
2. 4678	1190	1221		0	7.				
3.					8.				
4.					9.				
5.					10.				

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH

SPECIES CODE

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

PREP

1 = Marina
2 = Private Dock
3 = Public Ramp
4 = Other




O	H	C	A	P	T	A	I	N
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

[illegible]

INTERVIEWER: WERE ANY FISH CAUGHT BY THE VESSEL (Q.29 = YES)?

☒ YES ☐ NO

A		B		C		D		E		F		G		H		I		J		K		L		M		N		O		P		Q		R		S		T		U		V		W		X		Y		Z																																																	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

1  Rod and Reel
2  Handline
3  Other (SPECIFY) ► *TERMINATE*

0	6	Number of Lines
---	---	-----------------

0	4	• Number of Hours Spent Fishing
---	---	---------------------------------

1  Live 1  Artificial
1  Dead

1 Trolling 1 Chumming
1 Chunking 1 Other (*SPECIFY BELOW*)

03	► Number of People Fishing
----	----------------------------

POORMANS CANYON

3 7 5 2 • Lat, 7 4 0 6 • Long

0	5	3
---	---	---

 ▶ Number of Miles

1	0	0	0	• Water Depth in Feet
---	---	---	---	-----------------------

73	Water Temperature
----	-------------------

L P I S

4. STATE CODE **24** 5. CONTROL NUMBER **2101** 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER **02**

29. Did you or anglers on your boat catch any tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish today?
 1 ☒ Yes ▶ GO TO Q.30 2 ☐ No ▶ THANK RESPONDENT 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ THANK RESPONDENT 9 ☐ Refused

30. What species were caught? SEE LIST BELOW: FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK:
 How many of those did you keep? How many of those were released alive?
 How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold?

Species / Size Category		Species Code	Number Kept	Number Released		Number to Sell
				Alive	Dead	
BFT	Young School (1 - 655 mm)	4673				
	School (656 - 1145 mm)	4677				
	Large School (1146 - 1445 mm)	4678				
	Small Medium (1446 - 1785 mm)	4676				
	Large Medium (1786 - 1955 mm)	4679				
	Giant (1956+ mm)	4671				
+	Bigeye Tuna	4691				
	Albacore	4701				
	Yellowfin Tuna	4711				
NOTES: <i>Captain said that white mork was ≈ 40 lbs.</i>	Skipjack Tuna	4661				
	Blue Marlin	2171				
	White Marlin	2161	0	0	0	1
	Sailfish	3026				
	Swordfish	4328				
	Shortfin Mako Shark	3551				
	Longfin Mako Shark	3581				
	White Shark	4801				
	Tiger Shark	4911				
	Great Hammerhead Shark	4951				
	Blue Shark	4931				
	Common Thresher Shark	3531				
	Dusky Shark	4841				
	Sandbar Shark	4821				
	Sand Tiger Shark	3491				
	Little Tunny	4681				
	Atlantic Bonito	0330				
	King Mackerel	1940				
	Dolphin	1050				
	Greater Amberjack	0030				
+	Wahoo	4720				
	Other					
	Other					

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not measured, then provide reason why fish were not measured in notes section above.)

1 ☐ Yes ▶ RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, GENDER, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN 2 ☒ No ▶ THANK RESPONDENT

GENDER CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE

PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH; VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP
1.					6.				
2.					7.				
3.					8.				
4.					9.				
5.					10.				

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH

SPECIES CODE

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

PREP

+

+

APPENDIX B

BLANK FORMS

2005 LPIS Screener and Introduction

Hello, my name is _____ and I represent the Fisheries Research Group of QuanTech, Inc. We are interviewing boat captains and owners for a study sponsored by the National Marine Fisheries Service of the U.S. Department of Commerce. I'd like to ask you a few questions about your fishing.

- a. On this vessel, are you the captain, owner, or mate or passenger (designated by the captain to participate in this survey)?

☐ Yes *CONTINUE* ☐ No *TERMINATE AND TALLY*

- b. Did your boat just return from an offshore rod and reel or handline fishing trip in which you targeted or incidentally caught large fish such as tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish?

☐ Yes *CONTINUE* ☐ No *TERMINATE AND TALLY*

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT AND PRIVACY ACT NOTICE:

Collection of information through the Large Pelagics Fishing Survey provides essential information for the conservation and management of Atlantic highly migratory species. Information on fish distribution and catch rates will be used for stock assessment and in developing management programs to enhance fishing opportunities. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 5 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: NMFS, Highly Migratory Species (F/SF1), 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Reporting of fishing effort and catch of highly migratory species is required under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act. Consistent with the Privacy Act, it is NOAA policy to preserve the confidentiality of information submitted under this reporting requirement, except that NMFS may release such information in aggregate or summary form, such that individual identifiers are not disclosed (NAO 216-100). Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number.

OMB Control # 0648-0380

Expires 06/30/2006

NAME [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] INTERVIEWER CODE [] [] [] []

DATE (MO/DAY) [] [] [] [] STATE CODE [] [] COUNTY [] [] []

CLUSTER ID [] [] [] CONTROL # [] [] [] [] BEGIN [] [] [] []

END [] [] [] []

Weather Favorable ○ Yes
or Fishing Offshore? ○ No

(USE 24 HR CLOCK)

ASSIGNMENT RATE \$

--	--	--	--

 TOTAL 1

PR

 x (BONUS) \$

 = \$

 TOTAL 2

CH

 x (BONUS) \$

 = \$

 TOTAL 3

					ENDING ODOMETER
					BEGINNING ODOMETER
			TOTAL MILEAGE		

ASF

	\$.	
	\$.	

GRAND TOTAL	\$				
-------------	----	--	--	--	--

Mr./Ms. _____ is interviewing boat owners and captains today at _____ as part of an on-going Federal study to obtain recreational catch and effort information associated with larger offshore fish such as tuna, sharks, and billfish.

QuanTech, Inc., of Arlington, Virginia, is carrying out interviewing at your facility. Should you have any questions or concerns about the survey or the interviewer assigned to your facility, you may contact Daemian Schrelber at (800) 229-5220, extension 7831.

Our survey procedures require me to sign in and out at each fishing location that I visit.
Could I have your name and a phone number here?

[illegible]

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Time: _____ Initials: _____

S I T E

--	--	--	--

[illegible]

WD

--	--	--	--

□

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

--	--

[illegible]

WE



1

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

--	--

[illegible]

We

--	--

1

NOT CAPTAIN/
OWNER
OR MATE

--	--

1. INTERVIEWER CODE 2. INTERVIEW DATE (MO / DAY) 3. INTERVIEW TIME (USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

4. STATE CODE 5. CONTROL NUMBER 6. DOCUMENT NUMBER

7a. COUNTY 7b. SITE 7c. CLUSTER 8. SITE TYPE

1 = Marina
2 = Private Dock
3 = Public Ramp
4 = Other

9. What is the name of your boat?

2 ☐ (MARK HERE IF THE BOAT DOES NOT HAVE A NAME)

10a. Is your boat primarily operated as a...

- 1 ☐ Private Boat 8 ☐ Don't Know
2 ☐ Charter Boat 9 ☐ Refused
3 ☐ Party/Head Boat ▶ TERMINATE

10b. Was the trip today a charter trip or private trip?

- 1 ☐ Charter 8 ☐ Don't know
2 ☐ Private 9 ☐ Refused

11a. Does your boat have a NMFS HMS permit number?

- 1 ☐ Yes 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ GO TO Q.12A
2 ☐ No ▶ GO TO Q.12A 9 ☐ Refused ▶ GO TO Q.12A

11b. What category is your NMFS HMS permit?

- 1 ☐ General 8 ☐ Don't know
2 ☐ Angling 9 ☐ Refused
3 ☐ Charter/Head Boat

11c. What is your boat's NMFS HMS permit number?

▶ (IF NUMBER GIVEN, SKIP TO Q.14)
☐ Don't know ☐ Refused

12a. Is your boat documented with the Coast Guard?

- 1 ☐ Yes 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ GO TO Q.13A
2 ☐ No ▶ GO TO Q.13A 9 ☐ Refused ▶ GO TO Q.13A

12b. What is your boat's Coast Guard document number?

▶ (IF NUMBER GIVEN, SKIP TO Q.14)
☐ Don't know ☐ Refused

13a. Does your boat have a state registration number?

- 1 ☐ Yes 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ GO TO Q.14
2 ☐ No ▶ GO TO Q.14 9 ☐ Refused ▶ GO TO Q.14

13b. What is your boat's state registration number?

☐ Don't know ☐ Refused

14. What State is the principle port location listed on your permit application?

▶ State FIPS Code (NUMBERS) ▶ State Postal Code (LETTERS)

15. At about what time did your boat return to this site?

(USE 24 HOUR CLOCK)

16. For what species were you primarily fishing today?

Species Name _____
(Probe for one species. If Bluefin Tuna, probe for size category. Choose appropriate code from Coding List.)

17a. Were you participating in a tournament today?

- 1 ☐ Yes 8 ☐ Don't know ▶ GO TO Q.18
2 ☐ No ▶ SKIP TO Q.18 9 ☐ Refused ▶ GO TO Q.18

28. In the event that my supervisor wishes to verify that I have been conducting interviews here today, may I have your name and telephone number?

RESPONDENT'S NAME

TELEPHONE NUMBER

2 ☐ (MARK HERE IF THE RESPONDENT WOULD NOT PROVIDE A NAME OR TELEPHONE NUMBER)

INTERVIEWER: WERE ANY FISH CAUGHT BY THE VESSEL (Q.29 = YES)?

☐ ▶ YES ☐ ▶ NO

17b. What was the name of the tournament?

18. What type of fishing gear was primarily used?

- 1 ☐ Rod and Reel
2 ☐ Handline
3 ☐ Other (SPECIFY) ▶ TERMINATE

19. How many fishing lines were used for your (INSERT GEAR) fishing?

▶ Number of Lines

20. How many hours were spent fishing for large fish in the open ocean using (INSERT GEAR)? That is, how many hours were the lines in the water, with or without fish on them?

▶ Number of Hours Spent Fishing

21. For your (INSERT GEAR) fishing, which type of bait was used? (READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☐ Live 1 ☐ Artificial
1 ☐ Dead

22. For your (INSERT GEAR) fishing, which method was used? (READ LIST; FILL IN ALL THAT APPLY)

- 1 ☐ Trolling 1 ☐ Chumming
1 ☐ Chunking 1 ☐ Other (SPECIFY BELOW)

23. How many people on the boat were actively fishing with rod and reel or handline for large fish?

▶ Number of People Fishing

24. Where were you fishing for large fish?

▶ Lat. ▶ Long.

25. How many miles were you offshore—that is, how many miles was it to the nearest land?

▶ Number of Miles

26. How many feet deep was the water (depth to bottom)?

▶ Water Depth in Feet

27. What was the surface water temperature in degrees Fahrenheit?

▶ Water Temperature

LPIS

INTERVIEWER, PLEASE RE-RECORD THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE FRONT OF THIS INTERCEPT FORM:

4. STATE CODE

5. CONTROL NUMBER

6. DOCUMENT NUMBER

29. Did you or anglers on your boat catch any tunas, billfish, sharks, swordfish, dolphin, wahoo, amberjack, or other large pelagic fish today?

1 ☐ Yes → GO TO Q.30

2 ☐ No → THANK RESPONDENT

8 ☐ Don't know → THANK RESPONDENT

9 ☐ Refused

30. What species were caught? SEE LIST BELOW; FOR EACH SPECIES, ASK:

How many of those did you keep? How many of those were released alive?

How many of those were released dead? How many of those that were kept were sold or will be sold?

Species / Size Category		Species Code	Number Kept	Number Released		Number to Sell
				Alive	Dead	
BFT	Young School (1 - 655 mm)	4673				
	School (656 - 1145 mm)	4677				
	Large School (1146 - 1445 mm)	4678				
	Small Medium (1446 - 1785 mm)	4676				
	Large Medium (1786 - 1955 mm)	4679				
	Giant (1956+ mm)	4671				
+	Bigeye Tuna	4691				
	Albacore	4701				
	Yellowfin Tuna	4711				
NOTES:	Skipjack Tuna	4661				
	Blue Marlin	2171				
	White Marlin	2161				
	Sailfish	3026				
	Swordfish	4328				
	Shortfin Mako Shark	3551				
	Longfin Mako Shark	3581				
	White Shark	4801				
	Tiger Shark	4911				
	Great Hammerhead Shark	4951				
	Blue Shark	4931				
	Common Thresher Shark	3531				
	Dusky Shark	4841				
	Sandbar Shark	4821				
	Sand Tiger Shark	3491				
	Little Tunny	4681				
	Atlantic Bonito	0330				
	King Mackerel	1940				
	Dolphin	1050				
	Greater Amberjack	0030				
	Wahoo	4720				
Other						
Other						

31. May I measure the fish? (INTERVIEWER: If fish were kept, but not measured, then provide reason why fish were not measured in notes section above.)

1 ☐ Yes → RECORD SPECIES CODE, LENGTH, GENDER, AND PREPARATION OF SPECIMEN

2 ☐ No → THANK RESPONDENT

GENDER CODES: 1=MALE; 2=FEMALE

PREP CODES: 0=WHOLE; 2=GUTTED; 6=PECTORAL LENGTH: VALID ONLY FOR SPECIES 4671 & 4679

	SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP		SPECIES CODE	SFL (mm)	CFL (mm)	GEN	PREP
1.						6.					
2.						7.					
3.						8.					
4.						9.					
5.						10.					

BILLFISH & SWORDFISH

SPECIES CODE

UPPER BILL LENGTH (mm)

LOWER JAW LENGTH (mm)

PREP

APPENDIX C
FISHING AREA LIST

Connecticut

Butterfish Hole	40 50	71 35	CT06
600 Square			CT03
40 Fathom Lump			CT15
Horns			CT17
Hudson Canyon	39 40	72 30	CT18
Atlantic Canyon	40 05	70 10	CT04
Block Island Sound	41 15	70 40	CT05
Cox Ledge	41 05	71 10	CT07
Dumping Grounds	40 45	70 55	CT11
East Grounds	41 10	71 20	CT12
Fingers	40 55	70 55	CT14
Inside Hole	41 05	71 45	CT19
Midway Buoy	41 05	71 45	CT20
Mud Hole	41 00	71 20	CT21
North Bar	41 05	71 35	CT22
North Ground	41 10	71 50	CT23
NW Corner	40 45	70 55	CT24
Rosier Ledge	41 15	71 50	CT25
Shark Ledge	41 05	71 30	CT26
The Claw	41 05	70 50	CT27
31 Fathom Hole	40 50	70 45	CT01
Coxens Ledge	41 25	70 75	CT08

Maine

Saco River Whistle	43 25	70 15	ME11
Cape Porpoise Whistle	43 20	70 25	ME01
Fippennies Ledge	42 45	69 15	ME05
Jeffrey's Ledge Elbow	42 55	70 05	ME06
Pigeon Hole	42 55	70 05	ME08
The Cove	42 50	71 25	ME13
Platts Bank 29F	43 10	69 40	ME09
Cashes Ledge/ Ammen Rock	42 55	68 55	ME03
Cashes Ledge/ Buoy	42 40	68 35	ME04

Maryland & Delaware

Jack Spot	38 05	74 45	MD02	21
Ocean City Fingers	38 05	74 40	MD03	
Poormans Canyon	37 52	74 06	MD04	53
Washington Canyon	37 25	74 25	MD07	
100 fathom	37 29	74 30		57
500 fathom	37 24	74 25		62
Wilmington Canyon	38 20	73 30	MD08	
100 fathom	38 30	73 29		75
500 fathom	38 23	73 32		72
Baltimore Canyon	38 20	73 45	DE03	
100 fathom	38 14	73 50		58
500 fathom	38 06	73 49		60
Elephant Trunk	38 35	74 05	DE05	49
Hot Dog (north)	38 06	74 17	DE10	31
Sausages	37 59	74 33		32
Triple Wrecks	38 05	73 45	DE09	
Lummis Slough	40 00	73 35	DE06	
Norfolk Canyon	37 00	74 15	DE13	
N.E. Lump	38 49	74 29		41
Middle Lump	38 49	74 28		40
East Lump	38 48	74 24		42
20 Fathom Fingers	38 12	74 37		22
Ham Bone	38 11	74 24		32
Twin Wrecks	38 13	74 43		18
Winter Quarter Shoal	37 58	75 04		21
Parking Lot	37 40	74 50		40
Masseys Canyon	38 25	74 20		38
Lumpy Bottom	38 02	74 20		38
<u>Virginia Eastern Shore</u>				
Chicken Bone	38 15	74 28		38
Marine Electric	37 53	74 50		37
Mud Wrecks	39 08	74 25		08

Massachusetts

Cape Cod Bay N	42 00	70 20	MA02
Cape Cod Bay S	41 50	70 20	MA01
Cape Poge	41 25	70 25	MA03
Chatam (east)	41 40	69 55	MA04
Cox Ledge	41 05	71 10	MA05
Cutty Hunk	41 25	70 55	MA06
Dry Salvages	42 40	70 35	MA07
Falmouth N	42 35	70 45	MA10
Fingers (near Nantucket)	41 05	70 05	MA11
Gay Head	41 20	70 55	MA12
Great Round Shoal	41 25	69 50	MA13
Halibut Point	42 25	70 35	MA14
Horseshoe Shoal Wreck	41 30	70 25	MA15
Ipswich Bay	42 40	70 40	MA16
Jeffreys Ledge	42 55	70 10	MA17
Loran Tower	41 15	69 55	MA18
Mass Bay	42 15	70 30	MA19
Middle Ground	41 35	70 05	MA22
Nantucket Shoals	41 15	69 50	MA23
Nantucket Sound	41 25	70 10	MA24
Nant/Vineyard Sound	41 25	70 30	MA25
No Mans Land	41 15	70 45	MA26
NW & NE Corner	40 45	70 55	MA27
Pollack Rip Channel	41 30	69 55	MA28
Sesuit Harbor	41 50	70 05	MA30
Stellwagen Bank			
N	42 25	70 25	MA31
S	42 10	70 15	MA32
Middle Ground	42 20	70 15	MA33
The Claw	41 05	70 50	MA34
The Dump			
(off Marblehead)	42 25	70 40	MA35
The H- Buoy	42 10	70 30	MA36
Tillies Bank	42 30	70 10	MA37

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Cove	42 50	71 25	NH16
Platts Bank 29F	43 10	69 40	NH10
Scantum (new)	42 50	70 20	NH13
Scantum (old)	42 55	70 25	NH14
Saco River Whistle	43 25	70 15	NH12
Cape Porpoise Whistle	43 20	70 25	NH02
Fippennies Ledge	42 45	69 15	NH05
Jeffrey's Ledge Elbow	42 55	70 05	NH06
Pigeon Hole	42 55	70 05	NH08
Cashes Ledge/ Ammen Rock	42 55	68 55	NH03
Cashes Ledge/ Buoy	42 40	68 35	NH04

NEW JERSEY

Acid Waters	40 20	73 40	NJ06
B.A. Buoy	40 20	73 50	NJ10
Atlantic City Ridge	39 25	74 20	NJ07
Atlantis Canyon			NJ08 & NJ09
Bacardi	39 50	72 45	NJ11
Baltimore Canyon	38 20	73 45	NJ46
Barnegat Ridge	39 40	73 50	NJ12
Carteret Canyon	38 45	73 40	NJ13
Chicken Canyon	39 45	74 00	NJ14
Coimbra	39 55	72 25	NJ15
Compass Rose	38 15	73 10	NJ16
Corvales			NJ17
Dip			NJ18
Dumping Grounds	38 50	73 25	NJ19
Elbow			NJ20
Elephant Trunk	38 35	74 05	NJ47
Fingers	39 40	73 30	NJ21
Glory Hole	39 55	73 15	NJ22
HA Buoy	40 10	73 20	NJ23
Hudson Canyon	39 30	72 20	NJ48
Jacks Spot	39 05	74 50	NJ49
Lumais Slough	40 00	73 35	NJ27
Lobster Hole			NJ26
Manasquin Ridge	40 00	73 45	NJ28
Monster Ledge	40 10	73 35	NJ29
Mud Hole	40 10	73 35	NJ30
Ole's Lump	39 45	73 40	NJ31
Poormans Canyon	37 55	74 10	NJ32
Resor Wreck	39 45	73 25	NJ33
South Dump Site	38 20	74 10	NJ35
Texas Tower	39 50	72 40	NJ36
Fingers Baltimore	38 00	73 50	NJ39
Finger Spencer	38 40	73 05	NJ37
The Star	38 35	73 35	NJ38
Tolton Lump	38 55	73 50	NJ40
Triple Wrecks	39 35	72 55	NJ41
28 Mile Wreck	39 00	74 05	NJ03
1000 Fathom Hole	38 05	73 20	NJ02
750 Squares	38 55	73 55	NJ42
Wilmington Canyon	38 30	73 20	NJ43
19 Fathom Lump	38 30	74 20	NJ44
20 Fathom Temple	38 45	74 20	NJ45

NEW YORK

450 Line			NY01
600 Square			NY02
Aquarium (E)			NY03
Aquarium (W)			NY04
Butterfish Hole	40 50	71 35	NY05
Dumping Grounds	40 45	70 75	NY06
Fingers	40 55	70 55	NY07
Fish Tales (E)	40 00	71 20	NY08
Fish Tales (W)	40 00	71 20	NY09
Forty Fathom Lumps	40 25	71 35	NY10
Horns			NY11
Hudson Canyon	39 40	72 30	NY12
Linda			NY13
Mako Hotel	40 00	73 10	NY14
NA Buoy			NY15
Oregon	40 30	72 50	NY16
Rock Piles #1	40 05	72 55	NY17
Rock Piles #2	40 10	73 00	NY18
Rock Piles #3	40 15	73 00	NY19
San Diego	40 30	73 00	NY20
Texas Towers	39 50	72 40	NY21
The Rose			NY22
The Ranger			NY23
The Dip			NY24
Virginia			NY25
Yankee	40 20	73 15	NY26
Other			NY97
Don't Know			NY98
Refused			NY99

Rhode Island

Atlantic Canyon	40 05	70 10	RI03
Block Island Sound	41 15	71 10	RI04
Cox Ledge	41 05	71 10	RI05
Dumping Grounds	40 45	70 55	RI07 & RI08
(Dump (RI,MA,NY)			
East Grounds	41 10	71 25	RI09
Fingers (RI,MA,NY)	40 55	70 55	RI11
The Gully	41 00	71 20	RI12
Inside Hole	41 05	71 40	RI13
Midway Buoy	41 05	71 45	RI14
Mud Hole	41 00	71 20	RI15
North Bar	41 05	71 35	RI18
North Ground (RI,CT,NY)	41 05	71 50	RI17
NW Corner	40 45	70 55	RI16
Rosies Ledge	41 15	71 50	RI19
Shark Ledge	41 05	71 30	RI20
The Claw	41 05	70 50	RI21
31 Fathom Hole	40 55	70 45	RI01
(or The Hole)			
Coxens Ledge	41 25	70 55	RI24

Virginia

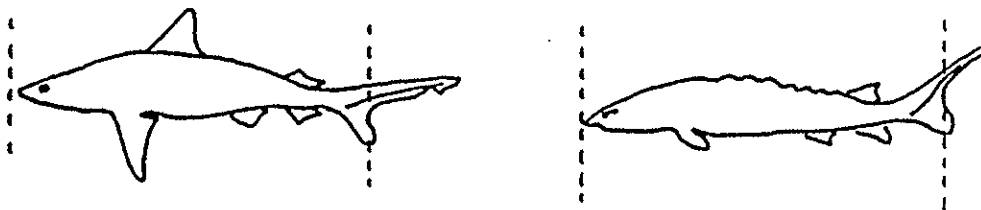
Bluefish Alley	36 35	75 30	VA23
4A Buoy	36 35	75 45	VA04
4A Buoy Lumps	36 40	75 40	VA25
Chesapeake Bay Light Tower)	36 55	75 45	VA26
CB Buoy Line SE	36 50	75 50	VA27
Chesapeake Bay Bridge)	37 05	76 00	VA28
Cigar	36 30	74 50	VA06
East Point	36 55	75 55	VA29
20 Fathom Finger	37 25	74 45	VA01
10 Fathom Lump	37 10	75 15	VA30
44 Fathom Wreck	36 55	74 45	VA31
The Fingers (NW)	37 00	75 10	VA20
East Finger	36 50	75 00	VA32
West Finger	36 55	75 05	VA33
Fish Hook	36 45	75 30	VA08
Jack Spot	38 05	74 45	VA34
Hot Dog	36 45	75 20	VA12
George II Trench	36 40	75 20	VA35
The Lumps	36 35	75 30	VA13
Meatcleaver	37 00	75 30	VA36
21 Mile Hill	37 25	75 10	VA02
26 Mile Hill (Hambone)	37 15	75 10	VA09
NOAA Buoy	36 35	74 50	VA38
Norfolk Canyon	37 05	74 35	VA15
Paramore Banks	37 30	75 25	VA39
Powell (wreck)	36 50	74 25	VA40
Spring Chicken	36 50	75 10	VA19
South Tower	36 15	75 15	VA41
Tiger Wrecks	36 45	75 45	VA42
Triangle Wrecks	37 00	75 25	VA21
Tripple Zeros	36 15	74 50	VA43
Washington Canyon			
N face	37 25	74 25	VA44
S face	37 25	74 30	VA45

APPENDIX D

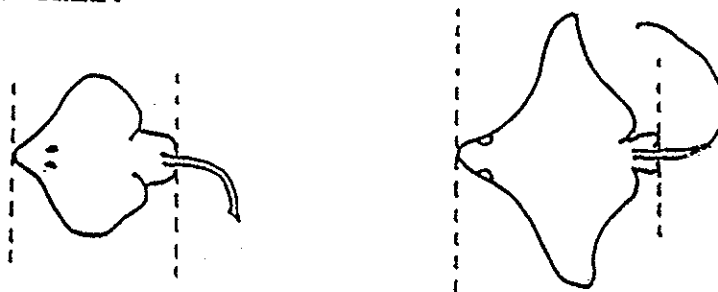
MEASURING FISH LENGTHS

The correct procedures for measuring the various types of fish are as follows:

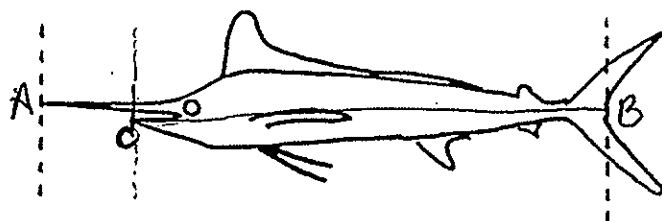
Sharks and Sturgeons are measured from the tip of the snout to the center of the fork of the tail.



Skates and Rays are measured from the tip of the snout to the base of the tail.

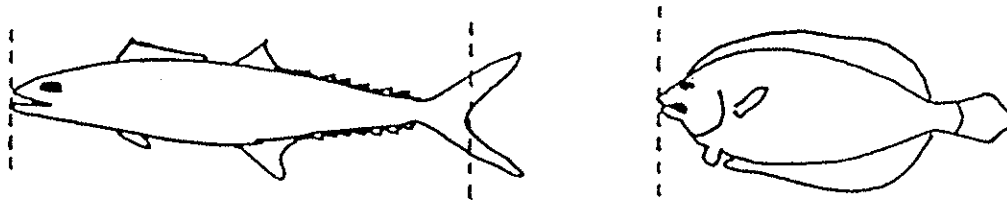


Billfish and Swordfish are measured from the tip of the bill to the center of the fork of the tail.



NOTE: ~~Measure~~
Measure AB &
CB

All other species are measured from the most anterior tip of the longest jaw (mouth closed) or end of snout, whichever is terminal, to the posterior tip of the tail at its center line. This procedure is the same whether the tail forks in (e.g., Mackerels) or protrudes out (e.g., Flounders). The resulting length is therefore a fork length.



APPENDIX E
STATE CODE LIST

STATE LIST

ALABAMA	01
CONNECTICUT	09
DELAWARE	10
FLORIDA	12
GEORGIA	13
LOUISIANA	22
MAINE	23
MARYLAND	24
MASSACHUSETTS	25
MISSISSIPPI	28
NEW HAMPSHIRE	33
NEW JERSEY	34
NEW YORK	36
NORTH CAROLINA	37
RHODE ISLAND	44
SOUTH CAROLINA	45
TEXAS	48
VIRGINIA	51

Appendix F

NMFS PERMIT INFORMATION

ATLANTIC TUNAS and ATLANTIC HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES CHARTER/HEADBOAT PERMITS – CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

Note that commercial vessels are subject to the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act of 1988. For further information, e.g., regarding compliance with required safety equipment, contact the Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator in your district:

Maine to New York: (617) 223-8315

New Jersey to North Carolina: (757) 398-6304

South Carolina to Florida: (305) 536-5091

Gulf of Mexico: (504) 589-4999

HMS ANGLING (recreational)

All private vessel owners/operators recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) for personal use in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling permit. This permit has replaced the Atlantic Tunas Angling permit, and incorporates those vessels targeting other regulated HMS. Similar to Atlantic Tunas permits, 2003 Atlantic HMS Angling permits cost \$22.00 and will be valid from the date of issuance through May 31, 2004.

HMS CHARTER/HEADBOAT (commercial)

Any vessel that carries passengers for hire to fish for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (tunas, swordfish, sharks, and billfish - HMS) must obtain a permit in the Charter/Headboat category. With regards to bluefin tuna, Anglers aboard vessels permitted in this category may collectively fish under either the daily Angling or General category limit as applicable on that day. The size category of the first bluefin tuna retained or possessed will determine the fishing category of all persons aboard the vessel for that day, and the applicable retention limits. Anglers aboard Charter/Headboat vessels may fish only under the Angling category rules on General category restricted-fishing days. All recreationally-caught bluefin must be reported within 24 hours of landing to the NMFS automated phone system (888-872-8862 or through this website) or--in North Carolina and Maryland--to a local reporting station. Authorized gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, and bandit gear.

ATLANTIC TUNAS GENERAL (commercial)

Vessel owners who harvest Atlantic tunas, including large medium and giant bluefin tuna, by handgear and plan to sell the tuna must obtain a General category permit. Vessels in the General category may retain and sell one (1) large medium or giant bluefin tuna per day per vessel. Vessels permitted in the General category are eligible to sell giant or large medium bluefin tuna.

Authorized gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), harpoon, handline, and bandit gear.

ATLANTIC TUNAS HARPOON (commercial)

Vessel owners who conduct a commercial harpoon fishery for Atlantic tunas, including large medium and giant bluefin tuna, must obtain a permit in the Harpoon category. Vessels permitted in the Harpoon category may not participate in the General category fishery. Authorized gear: harpoon.

ATLANTIC TUNAS TRAP (commercial)

Owners of vessels conducting trap operations that may result in the incidental taking of large medium and giant bluefin tuna must obtain a Trap category permit. Authorized gear: pound net and fish weir.

ATLANTIC TUNAS LONGLINE (commercial)

Owners of vessels conducting longline operations that may result in the incidental taking of large medium and giant bluefin tuna must obtain a Longline category permit. This is a limited access permit category. Authorized gear: longline.

ATLANTIC TUNAS PURSE SEINE (commercial)

Vessel owners who conduct a commercial purse seine fishery for Atlantic tunas, including bluefin tuna, must obtain a permit in the Purse Seine category. This category is closed to new permit applicants. Authorized gear: purse seine.

Frequently Asked Questions from
(Copied from NMFS PERMITS.COM on 5/19/05)

What if my address has changed?
Can I change my permit category?
Do I need a recreational permit to fish for or land tunas, sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish?
I currently possess a valid Atlantic tunas General category permit. Am I allowed to fish in recreationally tournaments for HMS with this permit?
Is there a description of a General category permit?
Is there a description of an HMS Angling category permit?
Is there a description of an HMS Charter/Headboat category permit?
If I want to fish for Atlantic tunas, do I need a permit? Which species and what areas are covered?
When recreationally fishing, what shark species may I keep?
How many sharks may I keep?
May I dress the sharks that I keep?
Does my permit need to be on board when I am fishing?
Is there a recreational minimum size for swordfish?
Is there a recreational bag limit for swordfish?
Can I dress any swordfish I keep?
If a relative or friend is on my vessel and he/she has a permit, do I need a permit in this situation?
Are there vessel safety requirements for commercially-permitted vessels?
May I fish for Atlantic tunas without a vessel (e.g., from an oil rig or from shore)?
I just applied for U.S. Coast Guard documentation/state registration of my vessel and do not know my documentation/ registration number. What do I do? Can I use my temporary state registration number?
What do I get when I pay for my permit?
If I witness a violation of NMFS regulations, how do I report it?
How can I check the status of the Atlantic tuna fisheries, i.e., whether the season is open, what the current retention limit is, and the updated bluefin tuna landings vs. available quota?
What are the authorized gear types for each permit category?
What is bandit gear?
What are the size class categories for bluefin tuna?
How do I measure the curved fork length of an Atlantic tuna?
May I sell my tunas if I have an HMS Angling category permit?
What is the recreational fishing season?
Where is the separation between North and South regions for bluefin tuna for recreational anglers?
What are the Angling category (recreational) daily retention limits for Atlantic tunas?
What are the reporting requirements for recreationally landed bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tuna?
What are the recreational reporting requirements for billfish and swordfish?
What are the seasons for commercial bluefin tuna fishing?
What are the commercial fishing seasons for other Atlantic tunas?
What are the reporting requirements for recreationally landed sharks?
What are the seasons for commercial fishing for other Atlantic tunas?
Will there be a new Charter/Headboat category permit for all Highly Migratory Species?
What are the minimum sizes for tunas landed in the commercial fisheries?
If I have a Harpoon or General category permit, how many bluefin tuna may I land?
Are there daily retention limits for Atlantic tunas other than bluefin tuna for commercial permit categories?
Can I get a Longline permit?
Do I need any other permits in addition to a tuna permit?
Where is the separation between North and South for Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing in the Longline category?
What is the Longline category bluefin tuna incidental trip limit?

What are the time/area closures for the commercial Highly Migratory Species fisheries?

Is there any limitation on the length of a longline?

Do I have to mark my fishing gear?

What if I entangle a protected species in my longline gear?

What are the reporting requirements for commercial tuna fishermen?

What tuna species can I fish for in the Gulf of Mexico?

Q: What if my address has changed?

A: "It is important that you keep your permit information current. You may change your address when you renew your permit by speaking to a Customer Service representative at (888) 872-8862, or entering your new address as you renew via this website. If you move after you've renewed your permit, please call Customer Service and provide your new address. Your permit will be re-issued."

Q: Can I change my permit category?

A: Changes in the permit category must be made prior to the start of the fishing year or when you renew the permit for that fishing year. However, permit applicants are allowed to make permit category changes within 10-calendar days of the date of issuance of the permit to correct any potential errors. If you find an error within 10-calendar days of the date of issuance please contact Customer Service at 1-888-872-8862.

Q: Do I need a recreational permit to fish for or land tunas, sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish?

A: Yes, vessel owners/operators who recreationally fish for or retain regulated Atlantic tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack), sharks, swordfish, and billfish in Atlantic Federal waters, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, must obtain an HMS Angling category permit or a HMS Charter/Headboat permit. However, General category vessels may fish recreationally for HMS so long as they are participating in a registered recreational HMS tournament and fishing under tournament rules. Vessels fishing exclusively in state waters are required to obtain the HMS Angling permit if they wish to keep their regulated tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, skipjack, and albacore). Vessel owners/operators should check their state regulations regarding the retention of sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish in state waters.

Q: I currently possess a valid Atlantic tunas General category permit. Am I allowed to fish in recreationally tournaments for HMS with this permit?

A: General category vessels are allowed to participate in registered recreational HMS tournaments when fishing under tournament rules. When fishing for, retaining, possessing, or landing Atlantic tunas while participating in a tournament, General category vessels must comply with the Atlantic tunas General category regulations. When fishing for, retaining, or possessing sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish, General category vessels must comply with recreational regulations. It is incumbent upon the General category vessel owner/operator to verify that a tournament is registered with NOAA Fisheries.

Q: Is there a description of a General category permit?

A: Yes, owners/operators of vessels fishing commercially for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, or skipjack tunas using a combination of rod and reel, harpoon, and/or handlines must obtain a General category permit. This permit is required in the Atlantic, which includes the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. This permit is required if fishing in Federal or State waters and because it is a commercial permit the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Gear Regulations will apply. Sale of tuna catch is permitted with this permit. Finally, if fishing is taking place in a registered recreational HMS fishing tournament only, this permit will also allow a vessel to recreationally fish for sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish.

Q: Is there a description of an HMS Angling category permit?

A: Yes, owners/operators of vessels fishing recreationally, even catch and release, for Atlantic HMS (sharks, swordfish, billfish, and tunas) in the Atlantic, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an HMS Angling category permit. This permit is for recreational fishing only, no sale of catch is permitted. This permit allows a vessel to participate in registered recreational HMS fishing

Q: Is there a description of an HMS Charter/Headboat category permit?

A: Yes, owners/operators of charter/headboat vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit. To be eligible for this permit category there **MUST** be a licensed Coast Guard Captain onboard the vessel during ALL HMS Fishing activities regardless if they are commercial, recreational, or fee based in nature. This permit allows a vessel to fish both commercially for tunas and recreationally for HMS, although not on the same day. Only the sale of tuna catch is permitted with this permit. This permit is required if fishing in Federal or State waters and because it is a commercial permit the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Gear Regulations may apply. This permit will also allow a vessel to fish in registered recreational HMS fishing tournaments.

Q: If I want to fish for Atlantic tunas, do I need a permit? Which species and what areas are covered?

A: Yes, all boat owners/operators fishing for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, or skipjack tuna in the Atlantic, including the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, must obtain a permit. Only one category may be assigned to a vessel per year. The permit categories (and allowable gear types) are as follows: General category allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, and bandit gear; Charter/Headboat category allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline and bandit gear; Angling (recreational) category allowable gear: rod and reel (including downriggers), handline; Harpoon category allowable gear: harpoon; Trap category allowable gear: pound net, fish weir; Purse Seine (limited access) category allowable gear: purse seine; Longline (limited access) category allowable gear: longline.

Q: When recreationally fishing, what shark species may I keep?

A: Sharks are managed in different species groups. The species groups and the species within each group that may be kept are: Large Coastal Sharks (Sandbar, Tiger, Spinner, Bull, Smooth Hammerhead, Scalloped Hammerhead, Great Hammerhead, Silky, Blacktip, Lemon, and Nurse); Small Coastal Sharks (Atlantic sharpnose, Finetooth, Blacknose, and Bonnethead); Pelagic Sharks (Shortfin mako, Thresher, Oceanic whitetip, Blue, and Porbeagle)

Q: How many sharks may I keep?

A: Recreational fishermen are allowed to keep one shark (any of the allowed species) per vessel per trip, measuring 54 inches or larger. In addition, there is an allowance of one Atlantic sharpnose per person per trip, with no minimum size, and one bonnethead shark per person per trip, with no minimum size.

Q: May I dress the sharks that I keep?

A: No, recreational fishermen must land sharks with the head, fins, and tail attached. You are allowed to gut and bleed the sharks by making an incision at the base of the tail as long as the caudal fin is still attached.

Q: Does my permit need to be on board when I am fishing?

A: Yes, the owner or operator of a vessel of the United States must have the appropriate valid permit on board the vessel to fish for, take, retain, or possess Atlantic tunas, when engaged in commercial or recreational fishing. The vessel operator must make the permit available for inspection upon request by NMFS or a person authorized by

Q: Is there a recreational minimum size for swordfish?

A: Yes. The minimum size is 29" (73 cm) from cleithrum to caudal keel, or 47" (119 cm) lower jaw fork length. Please see the figure in the Commercial swordfish section for instructions on the cleithrum to caudal keel measurements and the Billfish section for instructions on measuring lower jaw fork length.

Q: Is there a recreational bag limit for swordfish?

A: Yes, the recreational retention limit for North Atlantic swordfish is one swordfish per person, up to three swordfish per vessel, per trip.

Q: Can I dress any swordfish I keep?

A: You may gut and remove the head of the swordfish. However, you may not cut the remaining carcass into pieces while on your vessel.

Q: If a relative or friend is on my vessel and he/she has a permit, do I need a permit in this situation?

A: Yes, the Atlantic tunas permit is a vessel permit rather than an individual or "angler" permit. A permit is not transferable or assignable to another vessel or owner; it is valid only for the vessel and owner to whom it is issued.

Q: Are there vessel safety requirements for commercially-permitted vessels?

A: Yes, commercial vessels are subject to the Commercial Fishing Industry Vessel Safety Act of 1988. For further information, e.g., regarding compliance with required safety equipment, contact the Coast Guard Fishing Vessel Safety Coordinator in your district: Maine to New York: (617) 223-8315 New Jersey to North Carolina: (757) 398-6554 South Carolina to Florida: (305) 415-6867 Gulf of Mexico: (504) 589-6271

Q: May I fish for Atlantic tunas without a vessel (e.g., from an oil rig or from shore)?

A: No, only permitted vessels may fish for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, albacore, yellowfin, and skipjack tunas in the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean. If one of these species is caught incidentally during fishing activities from shore or from an oil rig, it must be released immediately.

Q: I just applied for U.S. Coast Guard documentation/state registration of my vessel and do not know my documentation/ registration number. What do I do? Can I use my temporary state registration number?

A: For Coast Guard Documentation number, you can obtain the number through your Documentation Service or through the U.S. Coast Guard Documentation Center at (800) 799-8362. For State Registration, if you've been assigned a temporary number, you may put that on the application form. However, you must contact us with your permanent registration number within 15 days of receipt, and you will have to pay an additional permit fee to update your permit. To avoid the additional fee, NMFS advises that you wait until receiving your permanent registration number before completing an application.

Q: What do I get when I pay for my permit?

A: Unlike many state permit programs, the permit fees go directly to the General Treasury and not to the managing agency (NMFS). The fee is set, in accordance with the procedures of the NOAA Finance Handbook, to recover the cost of administering the permit program, including maintenance of the public website and the toll-free phone system.

Q: If I witness a violation of NMFS regulations, how do I report it?

A: Please call the 24-hour NMFS Enforcement Hotline at (800) 853-1964. You may also call the U.S. Coast Guard Hotline at (800) SAVE-FISH. You do not need to give your name when you call.

Q: How can I check the status of the Atlantic tuna fisheries, i.e., whether the season is open, what the current retention limit is, and the updated bluefin tuna landings vs. available quota?

A: You may check the news area of this website to get the latest information about these topics. There are currently not quotas for any Atlantic tunas other than bluefin.

Q: What are the authorized gear types for each permit category?

A: Angling: Rod and reel (including downriggers) and handline. Charter/headboat: Rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, and bandit gear. General: Rod and reel (including downriggers), handline, harpoon, and bandit gear. Harpoon: harpoon. Trap: pound net and fish weir. Longline: longline. Purse Seine: purse seine.

Q: What is bandit gear?

A: Bandit gear means vertical hook-and-line gear with rods attached to a vessel, with no more than two hooks per line and with line retrieved by manual, electric, or hydraulic reels.

Q: What are the size class categories for bluefin tuna?

A: Size class categories and their associated lengths and weights are listed in a table in the library. Click "library" under "Info Center" to the left of your screen.

Q: How do I measure the curved fork length of an Atlantic tuna?

A: If the fish is whole (with its head on), you must take the total curved fork length. The measurement must be taken in a line, tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail, which abuts the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin and the dorsal side of the caudal keel. If the head is removed, the pectoral fin curved fork length must be taken and multiplied by a conversion factor of 1.35 to obtain total curved fork length. The measurement must be taken from the dorsal insertion of the pectoral fin, tracing the contour of the body, to the fork of the tail. THE TAPE MUST TOUCH THE TOP PORTION OF THE PECTORAL FIN.

Q: May I sell my tunas if I have an HMS Angling category permit?

A: No, if you have an HMS Angling category permit, you may not sell your catch. You must have a commercial fishing permit if you wish to sell your landings.

Q: What is the recreational fishing season?

A: June 1 through May 31 of the following year, except for bluefin tuna, in which case retention must cease when the Angling category or subcategory has been met.

Q: Where is the separation between North and South regions for bluefin tuna for recreational anglers?

A: North: north of 39°18'N (Great Egg Inlet, NJ and states north) South: south of 39°18'N (Great Egg Inlet, NJ and states south)

Q: What are the Angling category (recreational) daily retention limits for Atlantic tunas?

A: The number of bluefin tuna you may land varies throughout the fishing season. Therefore, you should check the "Status of Atlantic Tuna Fisheries" page or our information line (888-872-8862 or 978-281-9305) before making a trip to get the most up-to-date information. Yellowfin tuna: 3 yellowfin tuna per person per trip. There are currently no recreational retention limits for bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tunas. Note that in the case of multi-day trips, the daily limit (for bluefin and yellowfin tuna) applies upon landing.

Q: What are the reporting requirements for recreationally landed bluefin, yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tuna?

A: Recreational landings of Atlantic bluefin tuna must be reported within 24 hours of landing to the NMFS Landings Reporting system (call 1-888-872-8862 or report via this website under "Landings Reports"), or, if landed in the states of North Carolina or Maryland, to a reporting station prior to removing fish from the vessel. Information about the state harvest tagging programs, including reporting station locations, can be obtained in North Carolina by calling (800) 338-7804, and in Maryland by calling (410) 213-1531. Other states may implement tagging programs in the future, in which case NMFS will work with those states to notify anglers. Information on bluefin and other Atlantic highly migratory species is also collected through angler surveys. If contacted on the dock or by phone, you are required to participate in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS), a specialized survey for Atlantic tunas, sharks and billfish anglers. Information on catch of Atlantic highly migratory species may also be collected through the Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS), a coastwide survey about general saltwater fishing.

Q: What are the recreational reporting requirements for billfish and swordfish?

A: Anglers must report all non-tournament landings of Atlantic blue marlin, Atlantic white marlin, Atlantic sailfin and North Atlantic swordfish, including those landed on a charter/headboat, to NOAA Fisheries by calling 1-800-894-5528 within 24 hours of the landing. The toll-free call will take less than 5 minutes for each response and an additional 5 minute confirmation call from NOAA Fisheries will verify the reported data and issue a confirmation number for enforcement purposes. This requirement applies only to non-tournament recreational landings to avoid duplicative reporting with the Recreational Billfish Survey. North Carolina and Maryland are also exempted from non-tournament billfish/swordfish landings reporting since these states have modified their large pelagic/bluefin tuna catch card reporting programs to cover these species.

Q: What are the seasons for commercial bluefin tuna fishing?

A: General and Charter/Headboat categories - June 1 through January 31, or when the General category quota has been met. Harpoon category - June 1 through November 15, or when the Harpoon quota has been met. Purse Seine category - July 15 through December 31. Longline - June 1 through May 31, or when the Longline quota has been met. Note that the area from 39 to 40 degrees N. latitude and 68 to 74 degrees W. longitude is closed during the month of June to pelagic longline gear in order to reduce dead discards of bluefin tuna. Trap - June 1 through May 31, or when the Trap quota has been met.

Q: What are the commercial fishing seasons for other Atlantic tunas?

A: June 1 through May 31

Q: What are the reporting requirements for recreationally landed sharks?

A: If contacted on the dock or by phone, recreational anglers are encouraged to cooperate in the Large Pelagic Survey (LPS) or Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey (MRFSS) to facilitate scientific research on these species.

Q: What are the seasons for commercial fishing for other Atlantic tunas?

A: June 1 through May 31

Q: Will there be a new Charter/Headboat category permit for all Highly Migratory Species?

A: Yes, under the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishery Management Plan, there is a new requirement that owners of charter boats or headboats used to fish for, take, retain, or possess any Atlantic HMS (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish, or billfish) must obtain an HMS Charter/Headboat permit. This new permit will replace the current Atlantic tunas Charter/Headboat permit. This requirement will be effective once the Office of Management and Budget approves the new class of permit. If you apply for or renew a Charter/Headboat permit prior to the effective date of the new HMS permit, you will be issued an Atlantic tunas Charter/Headboat permit, which will be valid for use as an HMS Charter/Headboat permit until its expiration date of May 31, 2001. Thereafter, the HMS Charter/Headboat permit will be renewable on an annual (fishing year) basis.

Q: What are the minimum sizes for tunas landed in the commercial fisheries?

A: The minimum size for yellowfin and bigeye tuna landed in all permit categories is 27 " curved fork length. Currently, there are no minimum sizes for albacore and skipjack tuna. The minimum sizes for bluefin tuna are as follows: General category: 73" curved fork length, Longline category: 73" curved fork length, Harpoon category: 81" curved fork length, with allowance per trip of two bluefin 73" to 81", Purse Seine category: 81" curved fork length, except for 15 percent of landings per fishing year allowance for bluefin tuna between 73" and 81", and a 1 percent incidental take of bluefin tuna less than 73 inches per trip, which cannot be sold.

Q: If I have a Harpoon or General category permit, how many bluefin tuna may I land?

A: In the Harpoon category, you may keep two bluefin measuring 73" to 81" curved fork length per trip per vessel. There is no limit on the number of bluefin tuna 81" curved fork length or greater that you may keep, as long as the Harpoon category season is open. In the General category, the retention limits for bluefin measuring 73" curved fork length or greater can range between zero and three bluefin per trip per vessel while the General category is open. Please check to see what the current retention limit is prior to your trip, as these may fluctuate throughout the season.

Q: Are there daily retention limits for Atlantic tunas other than bluefin tuna for commercial permit categories?

A: No, except that current regulations limit retention of yellowfin tuna aboard Charter/Headboat vessels to 3 per person per day. Note that in the case of multi-day trips, the daily limit applies upon landing.

Q: Can I get a Longline permit?

A: Because Longline permits are managed under limited access regulations, NMFS will not issue any new Longline category permits for tunas. You must obtain one from another fisherman if you wish to enter the fishery.

Q: Do I need any other permits in addition to a tuna permit?

A: If you use longline gear to fish for tunas, you must also have swordfish and shark limited access permits. If you are applying for a commercial permit, note that your state may require a permit for sale of fish. Contact your state fisheries agency for further information.

Q: Where is the separation between North and South for Atlantic bluefin tuna fishing in the Longline category?

A: For the Longline category, the Northern area is north of 31° 00' N. Latitude, near Jekyll Island, Georgia (an area with little longline fishing activity nearby), while the Southern area is south of this line.

Q: What is the Longline category bluefin tuna incidental trip limit?

A: Target catch requirements for permitted longline vessels in all areas, at all times are, to 2,000 lbs. (907 kg) of target catch to retain one BFT, 6,000 lbs. (2,722 kg) of target catch to retain two BFT, and 30,000 lbs (66,138 kg) of target catch to retain three BFT.

Q: What are the time/area closures for the commercial Highly Migratory Species fisheries?

A: The area from 39 to 40 degrees N. latitude and 68 to 74 degrees W. longitude is closed during the month of June to pelagic longline gear in order to reduce dead discards of bluefin tuna. Under other regulations, fishing with a bottom longline, bottom trawl, dredge, pot, or trap is also prohibited in the Oculina Bank, which is bounded on the north by 27 degrees 53 minutes N.

latitude, on the south by 27 degrees 30 minutes N. latitude, on the east by 79 degrees 56 minutes W. longitude, and on the west by 80 degrees 00 minutes W. longitude. The area from 27 degrees 51 minutes N. latitude (near Sebastian Inlet, FL) to 32 degrees 00 minutes N. latitude (near Savannah, GA) extending from the shore outward to 80 degrees 00 minutes W. longitude is closed to shark gillnet fishing each year from November 15 to March 31. In addition, 100 percent observer coverage is required for the use of gillnets in the area from West Palm Beach (26 degrees 46.5 minutes N. latitude) to Sebastian Inlet (27 degrees 51 minutes N. latitude) from November 15 through March 31 and for the use of strikenets in the area between West Palm Beach, FL, and Savannah, GA, for the same time period.

Q: Is there any limitation on the length of a longline?

A: Yes. From July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000, the length of a pelagic longline is limited to 24 nautical miles in the Mid-Atlantic Bight.

Q: Do I have to mark my fishing gear?

A: Yes. You must mark your handline, harpoon, longline, and gillnet floats with the vessel's registration number, vessel name, or Atlantic tunas permit number.

Q: What if I entangle a protected species in my longline gear?

A: All vessels using longlines to fish for HMS must immediately release the animal, retrieve the gear, and move one nautical mile after an entanglement with protected species. Commercial vessels must report interactions to NOAA Fisheries. Interactions should be reported to the Center for Coastal Studies Disentanglement Hotline at: (800) 900-3622 or to US Coast Guard: VHF Ch. 16.

Q: What are the reporting requirements for commercial tuna fishermen?

A: If NOAA Fisheries sends you a letter telling you that you have been selected, you must inform NOAA Fisheries when you will be taking a trip, and if that trip is selected, you must have a NOAA Fisheries observer on board and complete a logbook within 48 hours of each day's fishing activities for multi-day trips, or before offloading for one-day trips. You must submit the logbook to NOAA Fisheries within 7 days of offloading. In addition, all commercially landed bluefin tuna must be tagged by a permitted tuna dealer. You may not fish with a pelagic longline on board after June 1, 2000, unless you are submitting hourly position reports from a vessel monitoring system. For further information, please contact the Highly Migratory Species Management Division at (301) 713-2347.

Q: What tuna species can I fish for in the Gulf of Mexico?

A: Commercial and Recreational vessels may only target yellowfin, bigeye, albacore, and skipjack tunas in the Gulf of Mexico. Atlantic bluefin tuna may not be targeted, but HMS Angling and HMS Charter/Headboat vessels may retain one large medium or giant bluefin tuna per vessel per fishing year incidental to fishing for other species.